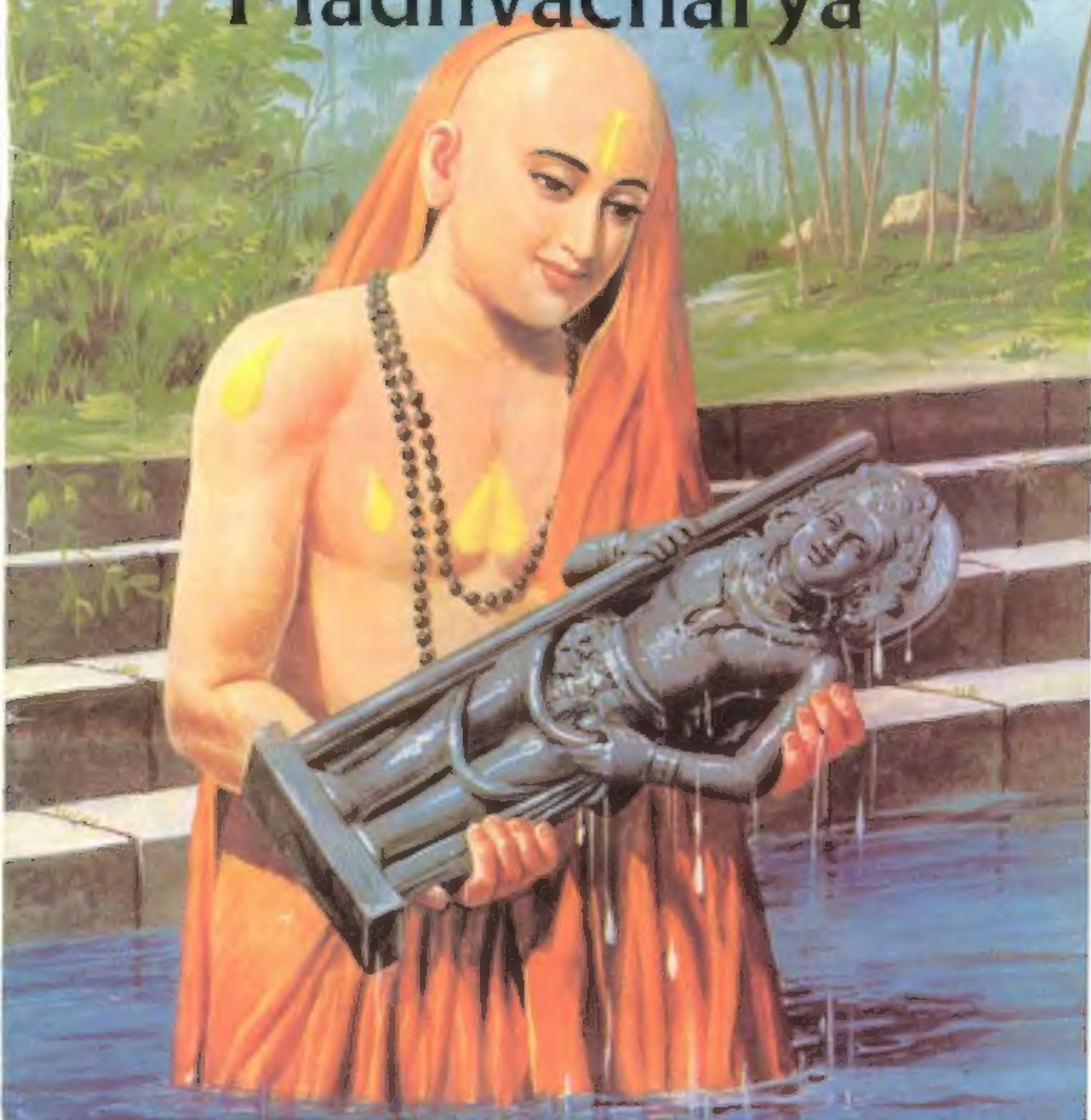




Madhvacharya





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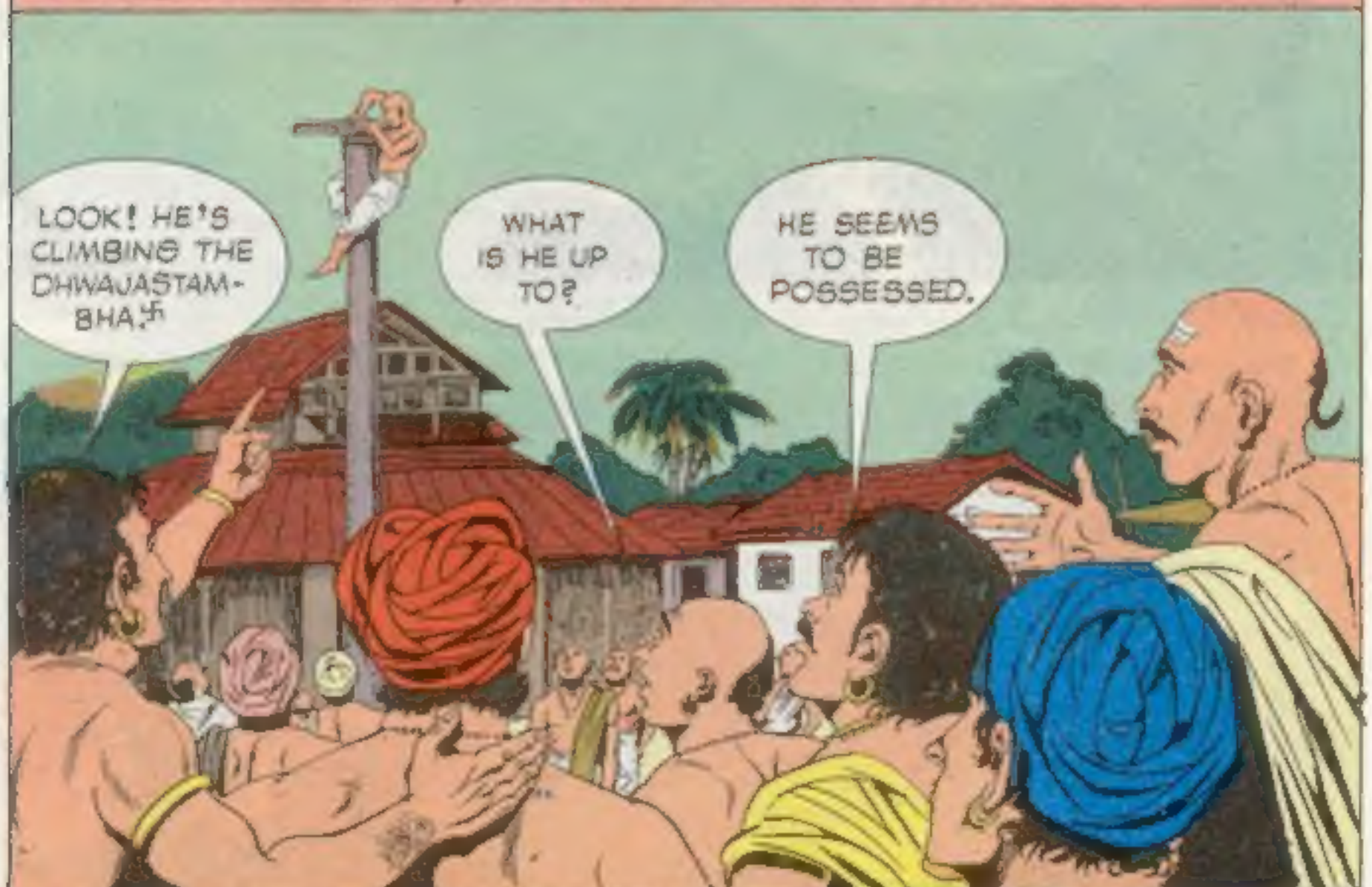


INDIA BOOK HOUSE

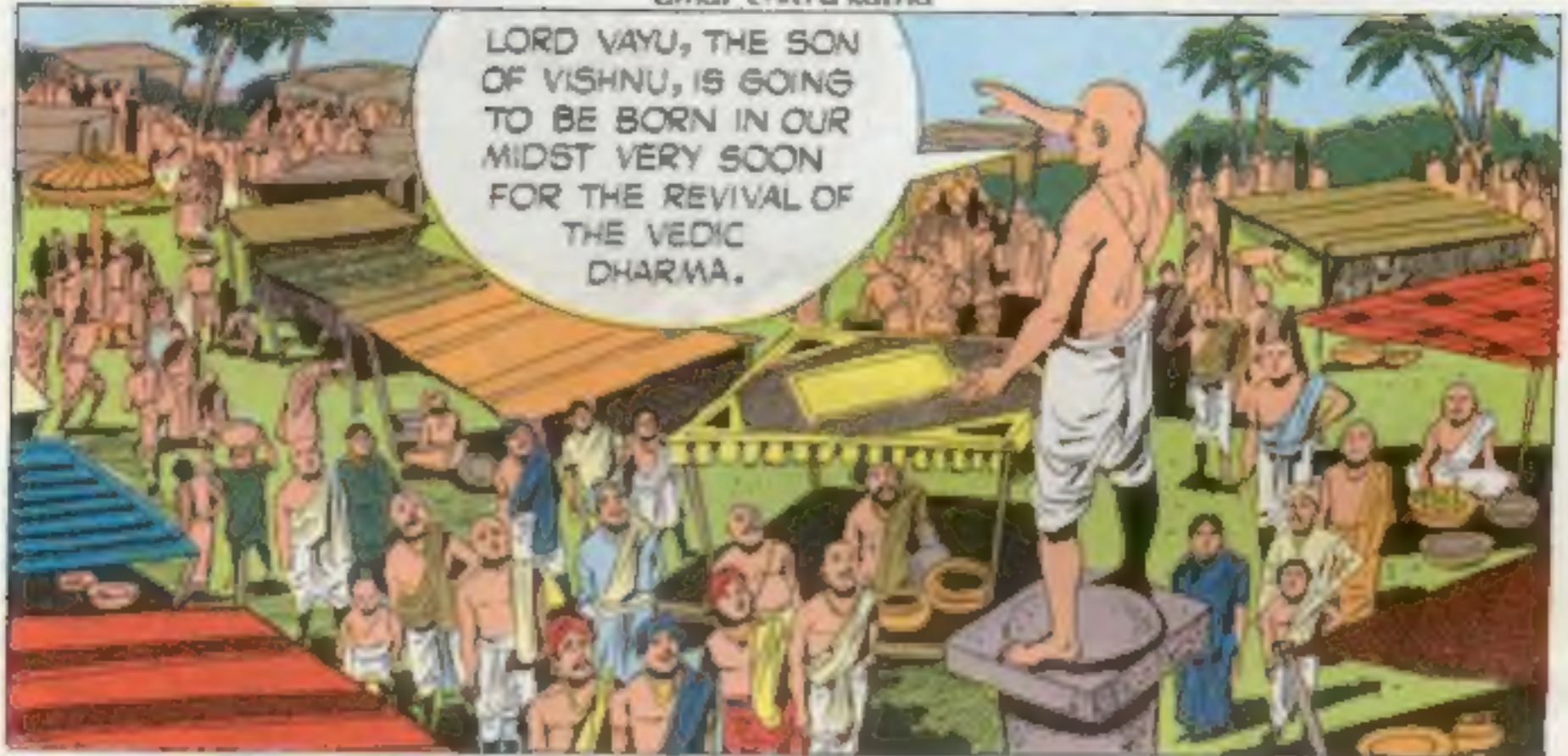
MADHVACHARYA



A VAST NUMBER OF DEVOTEES HAD GATHERED AT THE ANCIENT TEMPLE OF ANANTESHWARA IN UDUPI* FOR THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL. SUDDENLY —

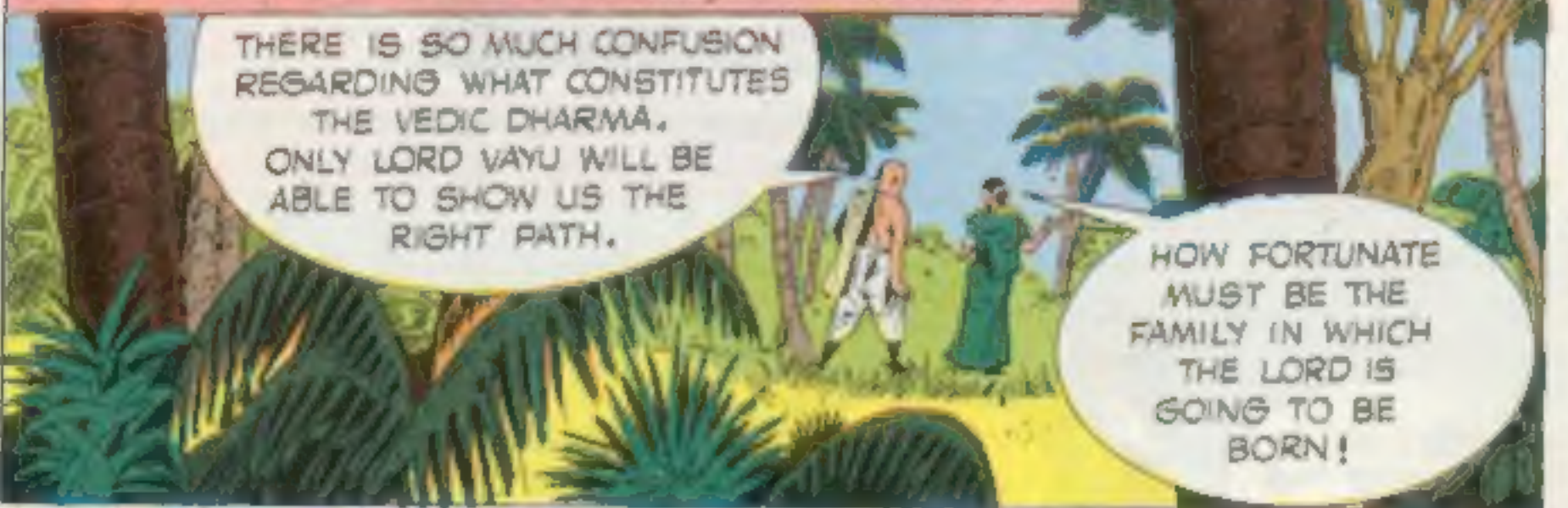


* A COASTAL TOWN OF KARNATAKA 卐 FLAGPOST IN FRONT OF A TEMPLE



LORD VAYU, THE SON OF VISHNU, IS GOING TO BE BORN IN OUR MIDST VERY SOON FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE VEDIC DHARMA.

ONE OF THE DEVOTEES, NARAYANA BHAT, TALKED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO HIS WIFE AS THEY RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGE, PAJAKAKSHETRA :



THERE IS SO MUCH CONFUSION REGARDING WHAT CONSTITUTES THE VEDIC DHARMA. ONLY LORD VAYU WILL BE ABLE TO SHOW US THE RIGHT PATH.

HOW FORTUNATE MUST BE THE FAMILY IN WHICH THE LORD IS GOING TO BE BORN!

LATER, WHEN A SON WAS BORN TO THEM, ON THE AUSPICIOUS DAY OF DASSERA IN THE YEAR 1238 A.D., LITTLE DID THEY REALISE THAT THEY WERE THE CHOSEN FAMILY. ON THE TWELFTH DAY, THE BABY'S NAMING CEREMONY WAS HELD AND HE WAS GIVEN THE NAME VAASUDEVA.



ONCE WHEN VAASUDEVA WAS BARELY THREE YEARS OLD—

WHERE IS VAASUDEVA?

I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU IN THE KITCHEN.



WAIT HERE. I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM.



THE ANXIOUS NARAYANA BHAT WENT OUT IN SEARCH OF HIS SON.

VAA SUDEVA-A-A!



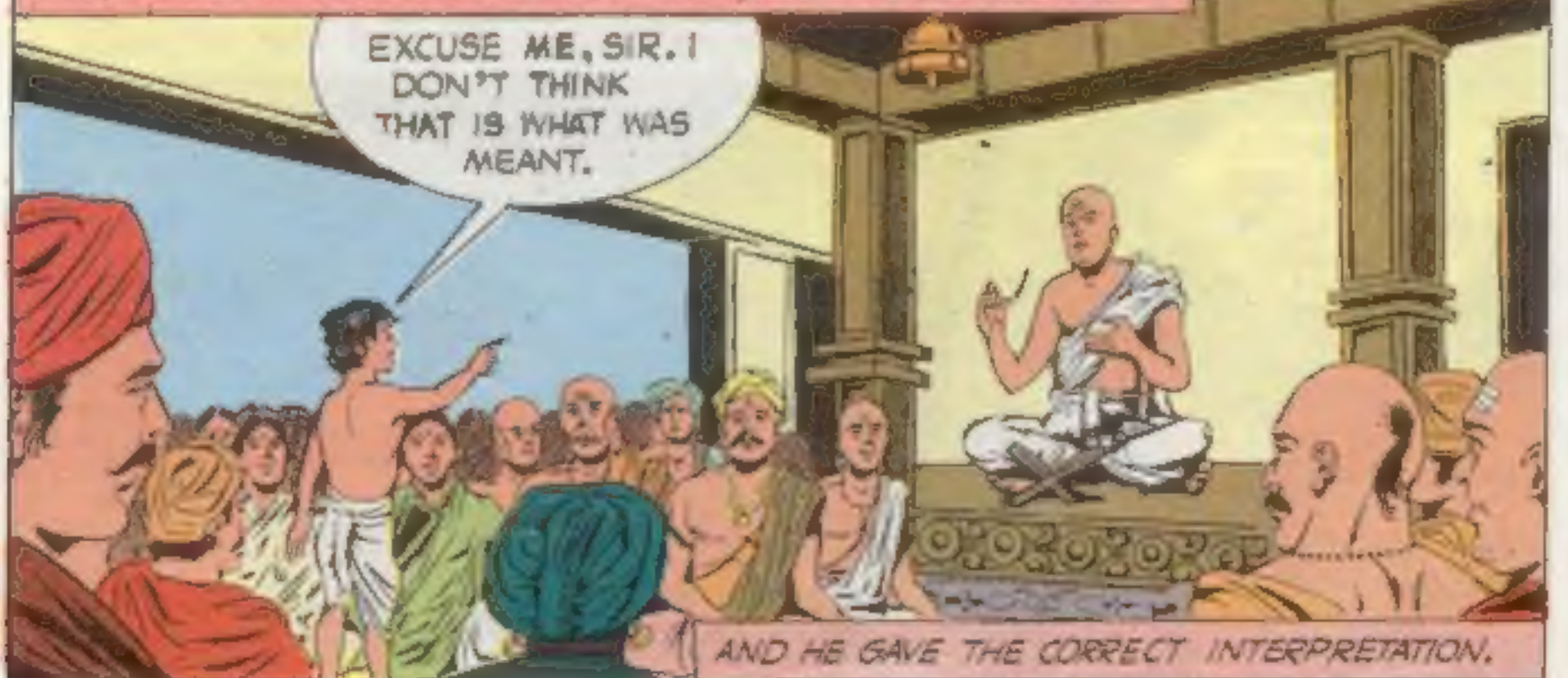
HE WALKED AS FAR AS THE TEMPLE OF ANANTESHWARA BUT THERE WAS NO TRACE OF THE TODDLER.

WHAT SHALL I DO? WHERE SHALL I LOOK FOR HIM?





ON ANOTHER OCCASION, TWO YEARS LATER, HIS MOTHER TOOK HIM TO A RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE. VAASUDEVA SAT LISTENING, INTENTLY, SUDDENLY—





NOT ONLY WAS VAASUDEVA GIFTED WITH SPIRITUAL INSIGHT BUT HE WAS ENDOWED WITH MIRACULOUS POWERS TOO. ONE MORNING—

KAKRA SHETTY HAS BEEN VERY PATIENT. BUT I CANNOT MAKE HIM WAIT ANY LONGER. I MUST GIVE HIM THE MONEY TODAY. SOMEHOW! ANYHOW!

HE LOOKS WORRIED. I WONDER WHAT'S TROUBLING HIM.

THAT AFTERNOON—

YES, MOTHER.

VAASUDEVA, PLEASE TELL YOUR FATHER, LUNCH IS READY.

HE STILL HASN'T RETURNED.

I'LL GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM.

AS VAASUDEVA CAME OUT, HE SAW A MAN.



THE MAN WAS NONE OTHER THAN KAKRA SHETTY.

OH! PLEASE WAIT, I'LL BRING YOU THE MONEY.



VAASUDEVA WENT TO THE GARDEN AND PICKED UP A FEW DRY TAMARIND SEEDS.



HE CAME BACK AND PLACED THEM IN THE OUTSTRETCHED PALMS OF THE CREDITOR.



LO! THEY WERE ALL GOLD COINS.

THERE'S FAR MORE HERE THAN I LENT YOUR FATHER.



SOON IT WAS TIME FOR VAASUDEVA TO BEGIN HIS FORMAL EDUCATION. HE WAS INVESTED WITH THE SACRED THREAD AND SENT TO THE GURUKULA* OF TOTANTILLAYA.

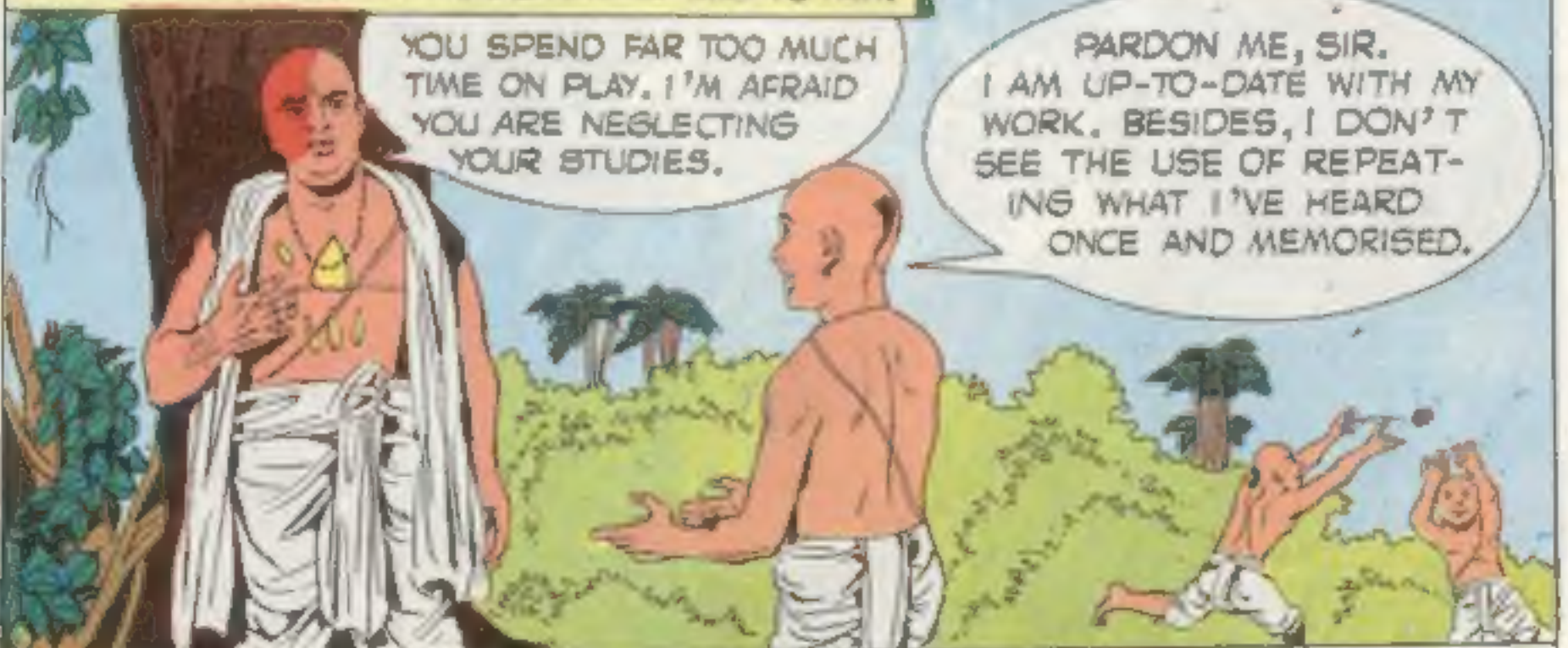


VAASUDEVA WAS GOOD AT HIS VEDIC STUDIES. BUT TOTANTILLAYA WAS NOT QUITE HAPPY WITH HIM.



HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME PLAYING GAMES, WRESTLING AND SWIMMING. AT THIS RATE HE WILL SOON LOSE INTEREST IN HIS STUDIES.

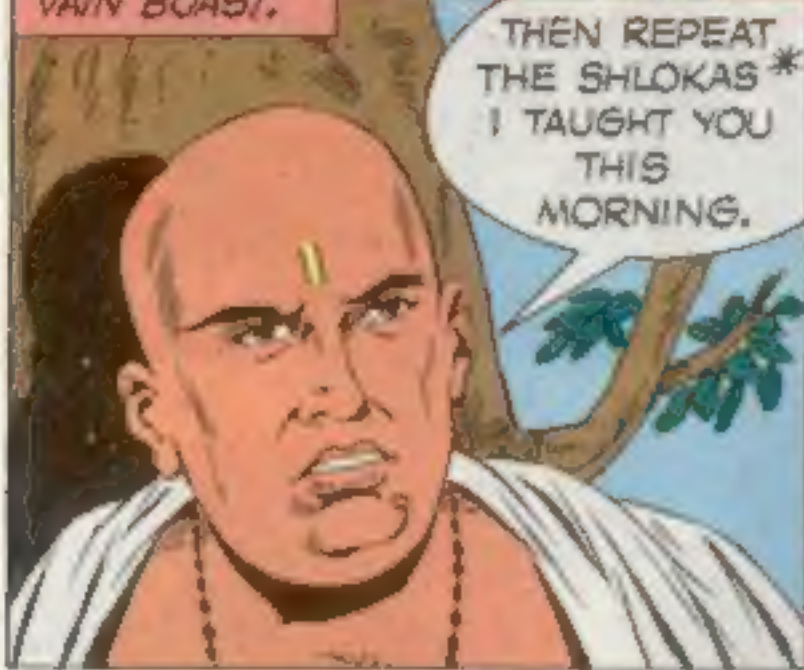
HE CALLED VAASUDEVA ASIDE AND SPOKE TO HIM.



YOU SPEND FAR TOO MUCH TIME ON PLAY. I'M AFRAID YOU ARE NEGLECTING YOUR STUDIES.

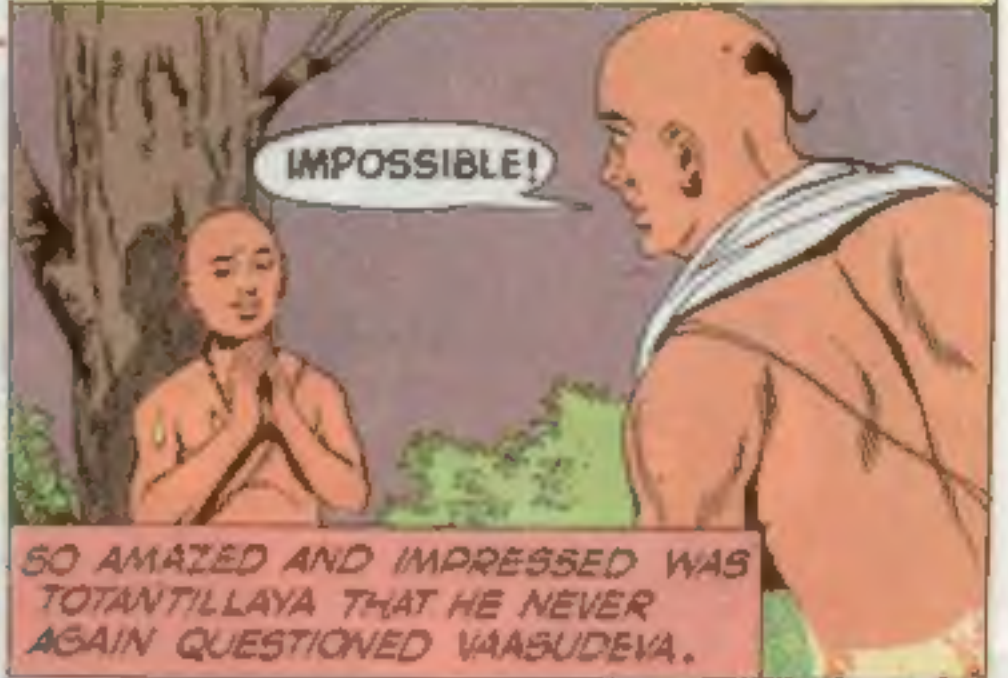
PARDON ME, SIR. I AM UP-TO-DATE WITH MY WORK. BESIDES, I DON'T SEE THE USE OF REPEATING WHAT I'VE HEARD ONCE AND MEMORISED.

TOTANTILLAYA WAS ENRAGED BY WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE BOY'S VAIN BOAST.



THEN REPEAT THE SHLOKAS* I TAUGHT YOU THIS MORNING.

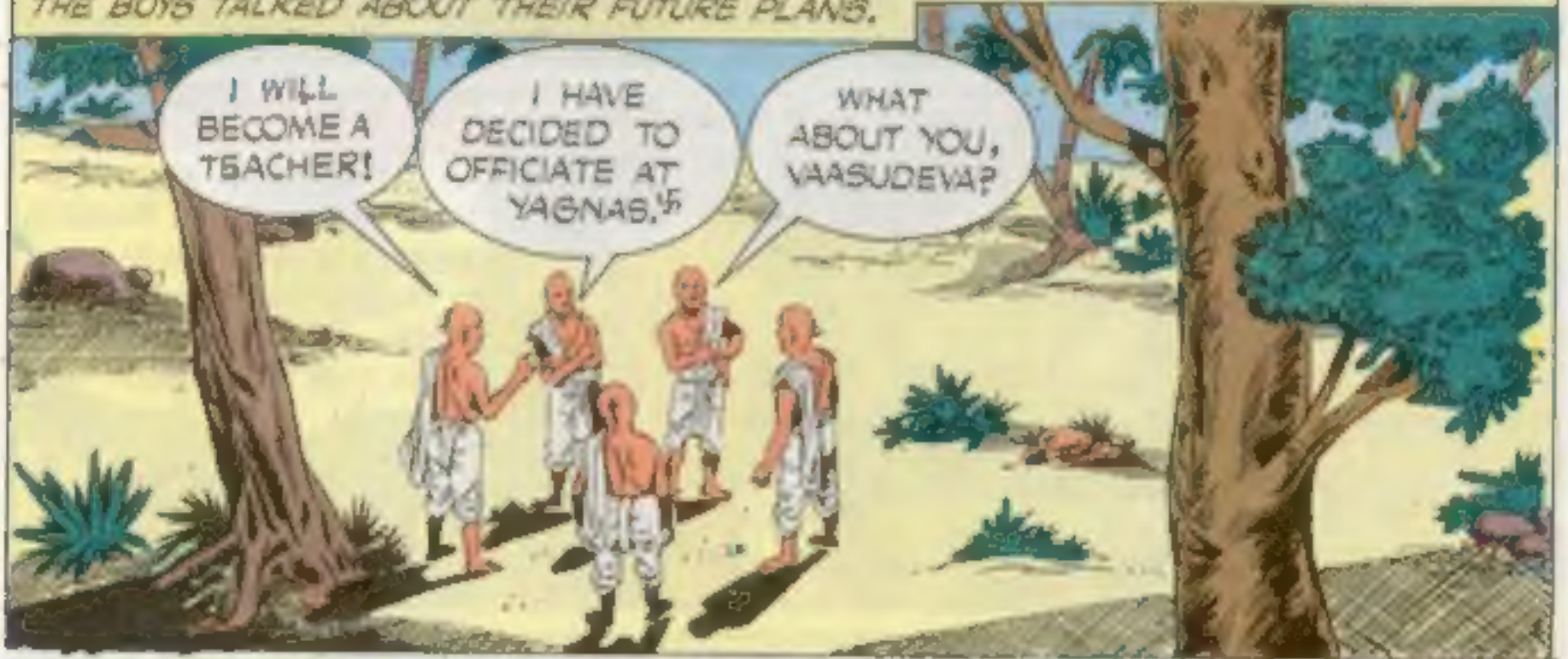
VAASUDEVA REPEATED NOT ONLY THOSE BUT ALSO MANY SUCCEEDING SHLOKAS.



IMPOSSIBLE!

SO AMAZED AND IMPRESSED WAS TOTANTILLAYA THAT HE NEVER AGAIN QUESTIONED VAASUDEVA.

THE YEARS ROLLED BY. AS THE END OF THEIR STAY AT THE GURUKULA DREW NEAR, THE BOYS TALKED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE PLANS.



I WILL BECOME A TEACHER!

I HAVE DECIDED TO OFFICIATE AT YAGNAS,[†]

WHAT ABOUT YOU, VAASUDEVA?

VAASUDEVA SMILED.

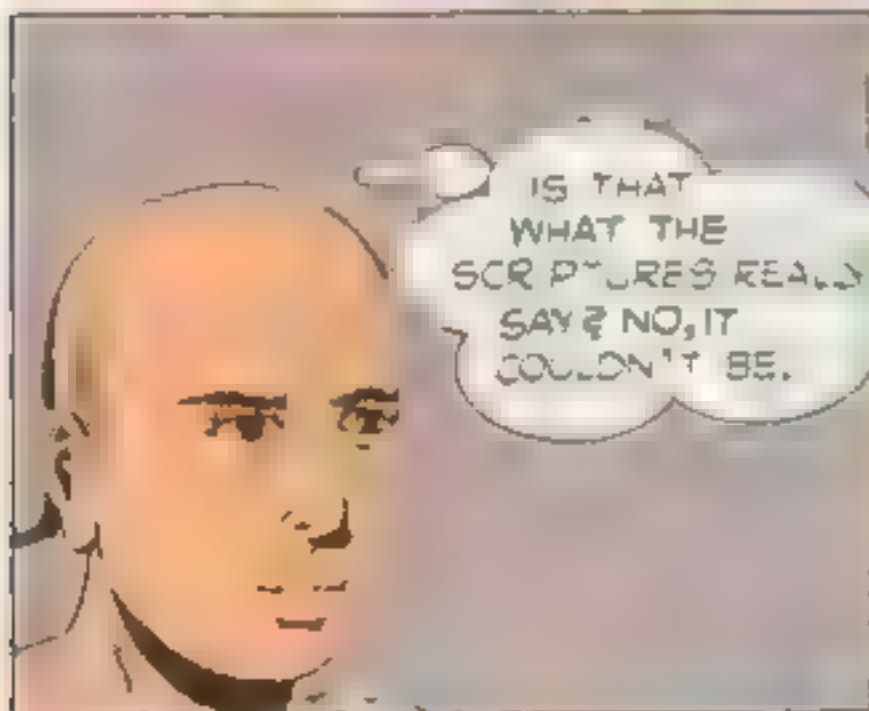
WE CAN RUN SCHOOLS AND PERFORM SACRIFICES ONLY IF OUR RELIGION SURVIVES THE ONSLAUGHTS OF HOSTILE ALIENS.



WHY DON'T WE FIGHT FOR OUR DHARMA?



* SANSKRIT VERSES [†] FIRE SACRIFICES



ON HIS WAY HOME, AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HIS STUDIES, VAASUDEVA MADE A MOMENTOUS DECISION.



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, HE WOULD OFTEN DISAPPEAR FROM HOME FOR HOURS AT A TIME.

WHERE'S
VAASUDEVA?

HE
HAS GONE
OUT

THAT EVENING—

WHERE WERE
YOU?

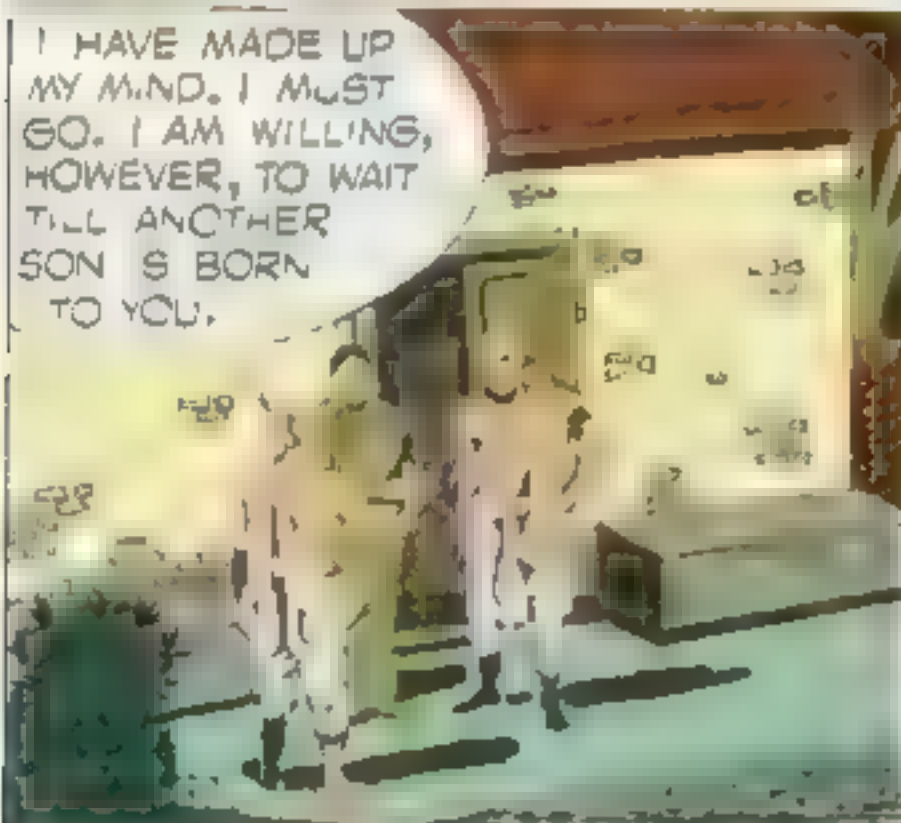
WITH
ACHYUTA PRAJNA,
THE ASCETIC.

VAASUDEVA HAS
ALWAYS BEEN AN
UNUSUAL CHILD. WHAT
IF HE LEAVES US AND
DECIDES TO BECOME
AN ASCETIC? IT WOULD
BREAK HIS MOTHER'S
HEART.

MY SON, SOME DAY YOU
WILL MARRY AND LEAD
THE LIFE OF A HOUSEHOLDER.
WHAT HAVE YOU TO DO
WITH ASCETICS?

I HAVE DECIDED
NOT TO MARRY. I
WOULD LIKE TO
RENOUCE THE
WORLD. PLEASE
GIVE ME YOUR
BLESSINGS.

NO! NO!
VAASUDEVA!



AND ARVINDRA NA SAT BEFORE HIS GURU.

THE SUPREME
BRAHMAN IS THE
ONLY REALITY.

BUT
SR...

TO ARVINDRA NA, THE SUPREME BRAHMAN WAS THE ONLY REALITY. HE HAD
SEEN IT ALL AND HE HAD HEARD IT ALL. HE HAD HEARD THE GURU SAY IT.

HE HAD HEARD THAT THE SUPREME BRAHMAN WAS THE ONLY REALITY.

WE HAVE COME TO
HAVE A DISPUTATION
WITH THE SCHOLARS
HERE.

YOU ARE
WELCOME. I HAVE
THE RIGHT PERSON
FOR YOU.

DURING THE DISPUTATION, ARVINDRA NA'S GURU WENT TO THE
KITCHEN TO COOK.

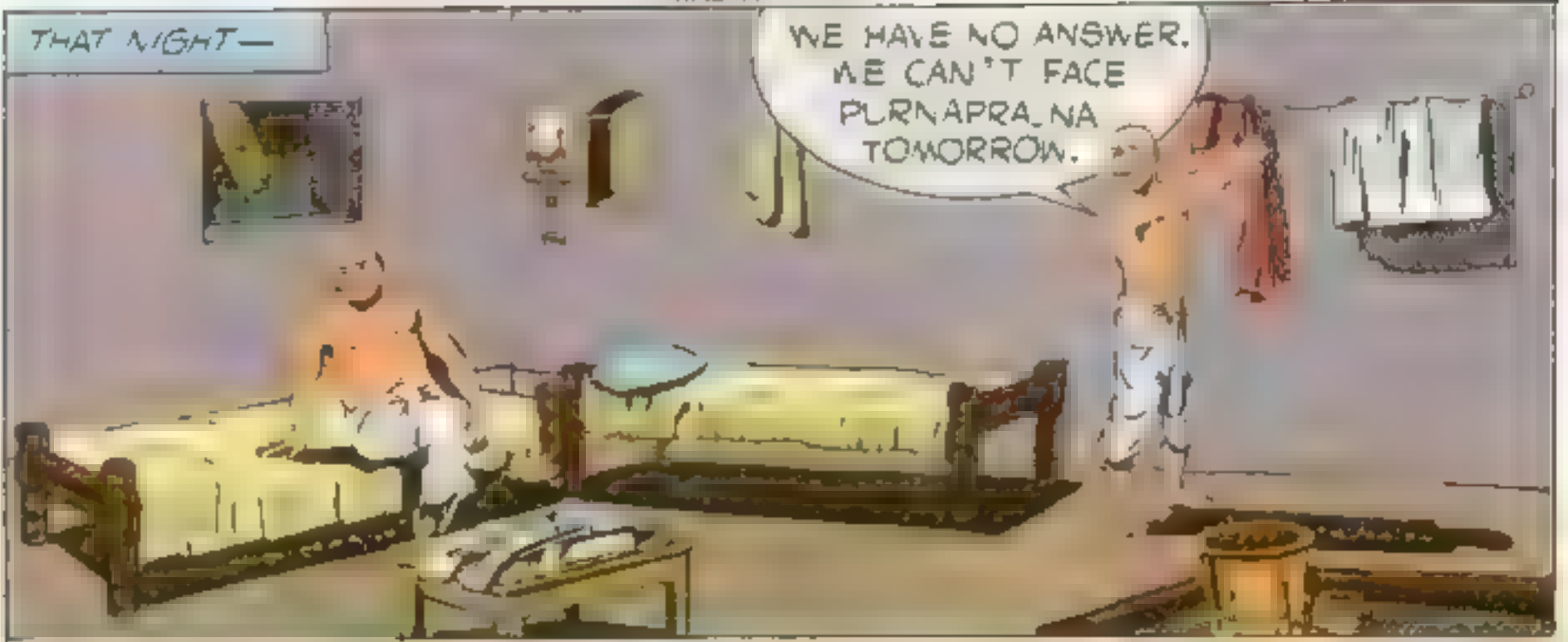
WILL ANSWER
YOU TOMORROW.

TAKE YOUR
OWN TIME.



THAT NIGHT—

WE HAVE NO ANSWER.
WE CAN'T FACE
PURNAPRAJNA
TOMORROW.



THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE ASSEMBLY WAITED FOR THE SCHOLARS TO APPEAR—

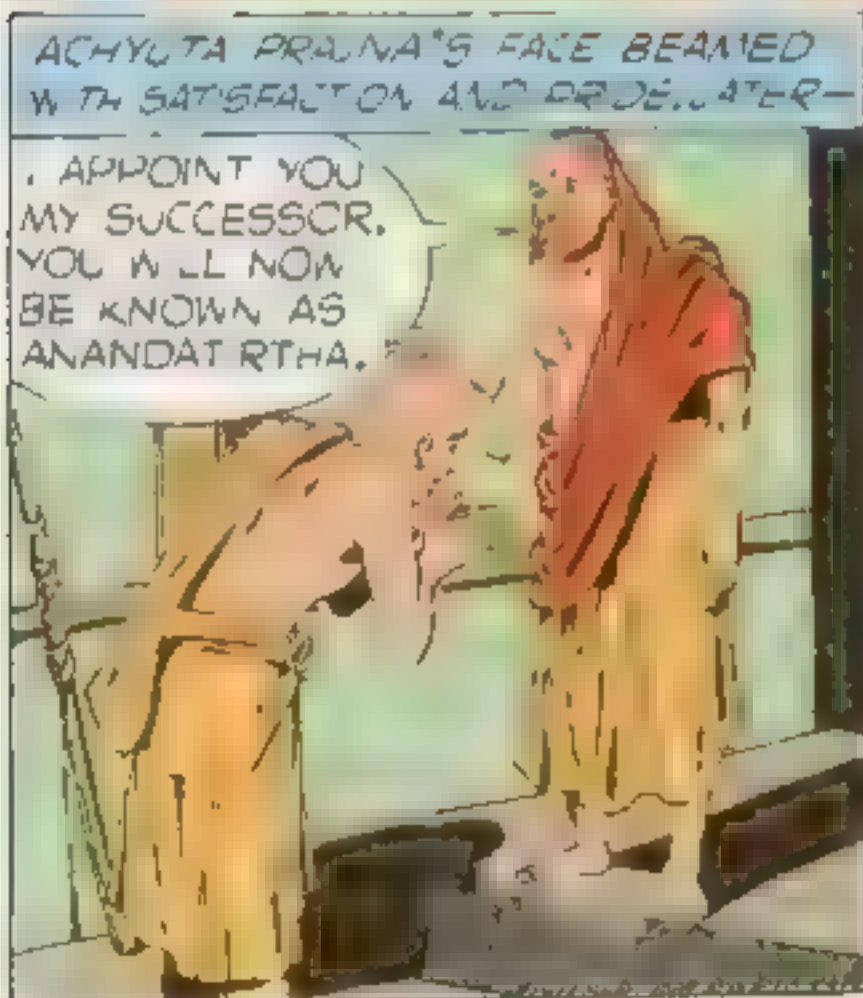
THE VISTORS ARE
NOT TO BE
FOUND.

NOT DARING TO MEET
PURNAPRAJNA,
THEY HAVE PROBABLY
RUN AWAY.

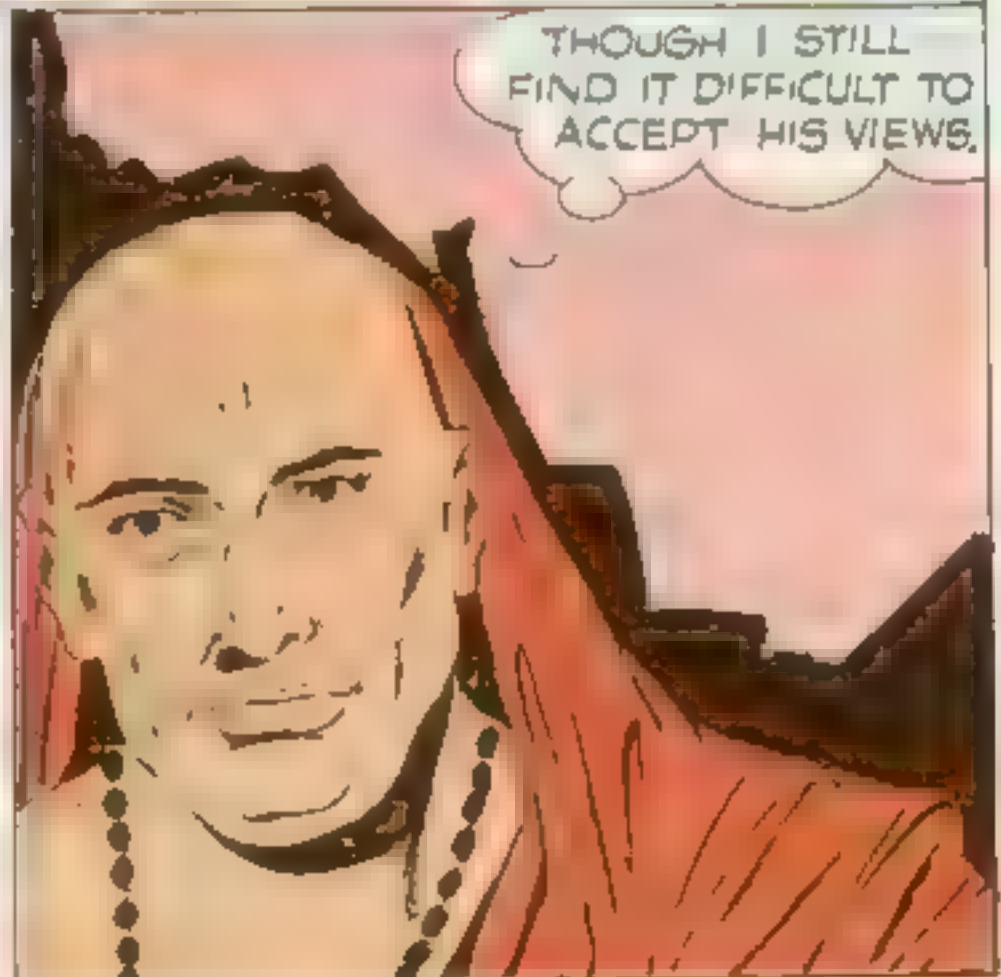


ACHYUTA PRAJNA'S FACE BEAMED
WITH SATISFACTION AND PRIDE. LATER—

I APPOINT YOU
MY SUCCESSOR.
YOU WILL NOW
BE KNOWN AS
ANANDARTHA.



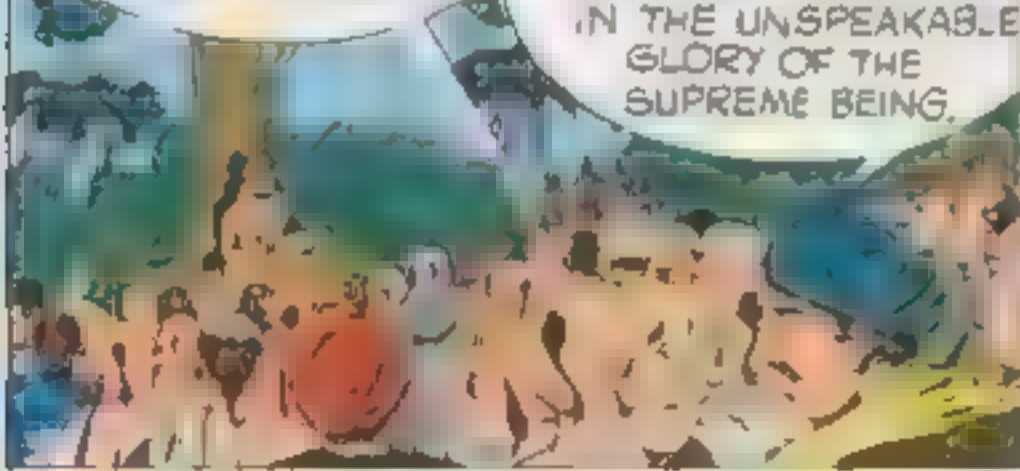
THOUGH I STILL
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
ACCEPT HIS VIEWS.



ANANDATIRTHA NOW BEGAN TO EXPOUND THE SCRIPTURES TO LARGE AUDIENCES.

HIS INTERPRETATIONS ARE ALWAYS TO THE POINT AND REFRESHINGLY ORIGINAL.

AND CONVINCING TOO. AFTER HEARING HIM SPEAK, I CANNOT BUT BELIEVE IN THE UNSPEAKABLE GLORY OF THE SUPREME BEING.



IT WAS AROUND THIS PERIOD THAT MADHACHARYA, AS ANANDATIRTHA CAME TO BE KNOWN, BEGAN WRITING HIS FAMOUS COMMENTARY ON THE BHAGAVAD GITA AND...



...WENT ON A PILGRIMAGE TO SULTANAPUR, WHERE HE PARTICIPATED WITH THE SCHOLARS AT THEIR LECTURES OF LEARNING. HE SPENT SEVERAL YEARS IN AVALAKI, THOUGH MANY OF THEM WERE INITIALLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT HIS THEORIES, THEY ULTIMATELY BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS AND ADMIRERS.

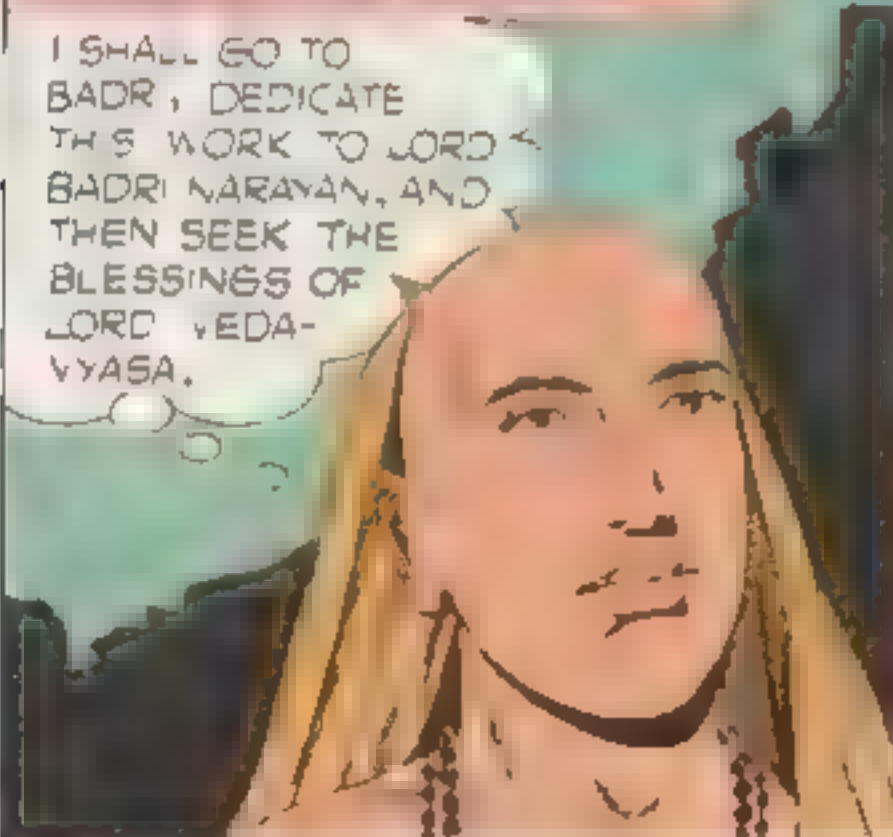
HIS LOGIC IS IMPECCABLE.

TO HEAR HIM SPEAK IS AN INTELLECTUAL TREAT.



AS SOON AS HE COMPLETED HIS COMMENTARY ON THE GITA...

I SHALL GO TO BADRI, DEDICATE THIS WORK TO LORD BADRI NARAYAN, AND THEN SEEK THE BLESSINGS OF LORD VEDAVYASA.

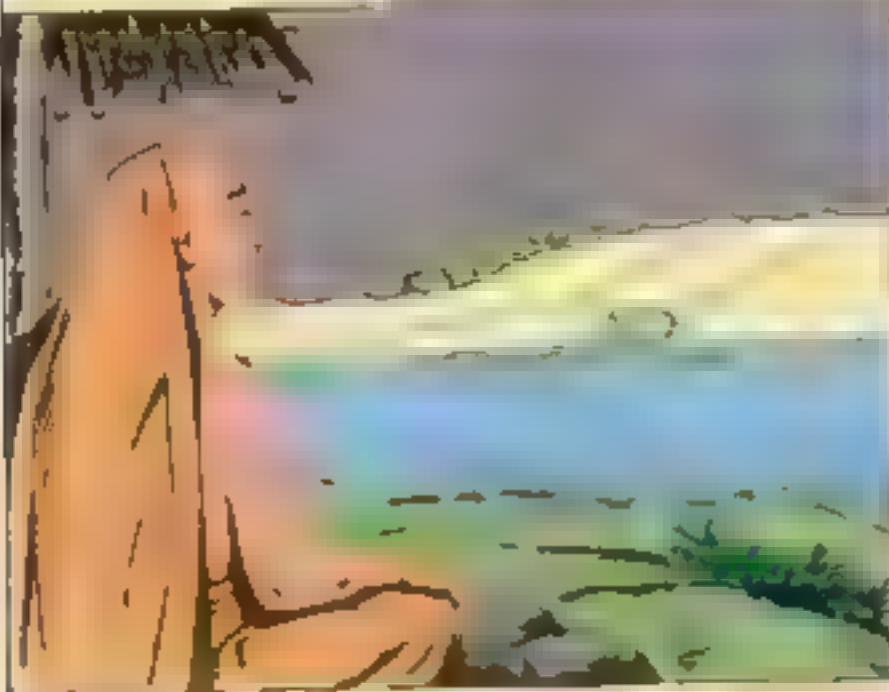


...HE WROTE A LONG LETTER, INVITING LORD VEDAVYASA TO VISIT HIM IN SULTANAPUR.

O LORD, ACCEPT MY HUMBLE OFFERING.



HE THEN TOOK A VOW OF SILENCE, AND FASTED AND PRAYED FOR A CALL FROM LORD VEDAVYASA.

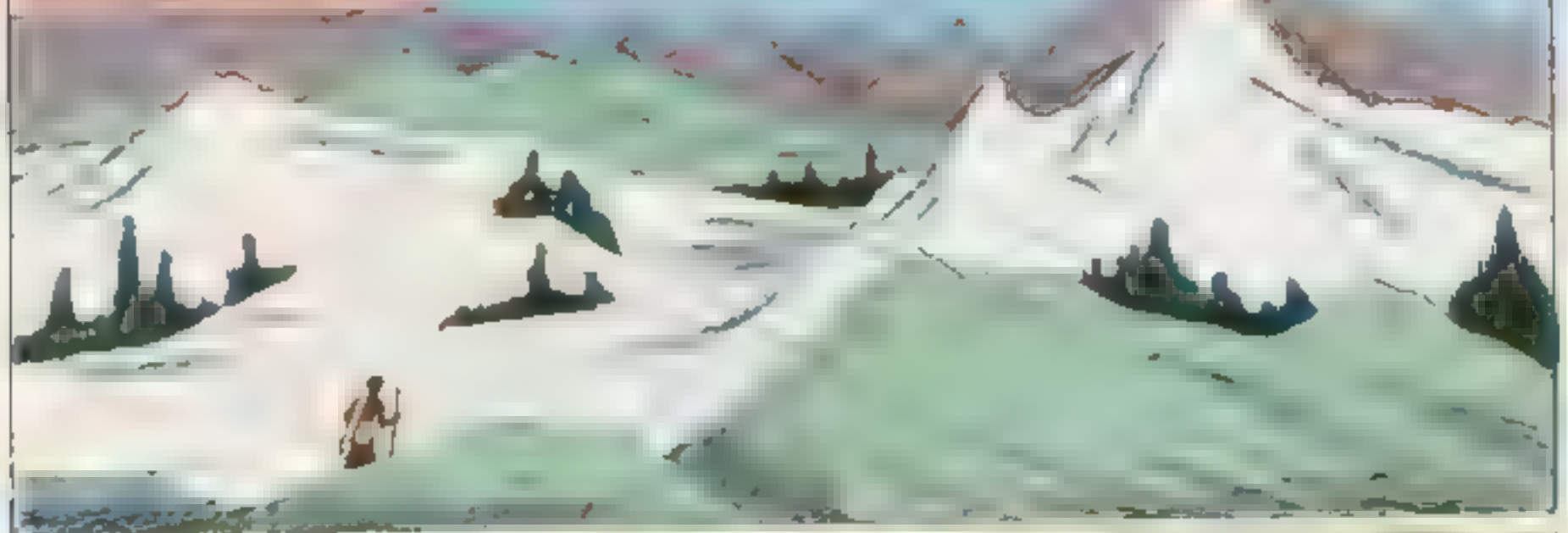


FORTY-EIGHT DAYS LATER--



COME TO ME AT MY ASHRAM IN JTTARA BADRI.

LEAVING A MESSAGE FOR HIS DISCIPLES, HE STARTED OUT ALONE ON THE ARDUOUS JOURNEY.



A LITTLE LATER, THE DISCIPLES FOUND THE MESSAGE. ONE OF THEM READ IT OUT.



"I AM GOING AWAY TO MEET SRI VEDAVYASA. WHETHER I RETURN OR NOT IS LEFT TO HIM. MAY THE LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU. FAREWELL, DEAR DISCIPLES."

SATYATIRTHA, A DISCIPLE WHO COULD NOT BEAR TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE ACHARYA, BROKE DOWN.

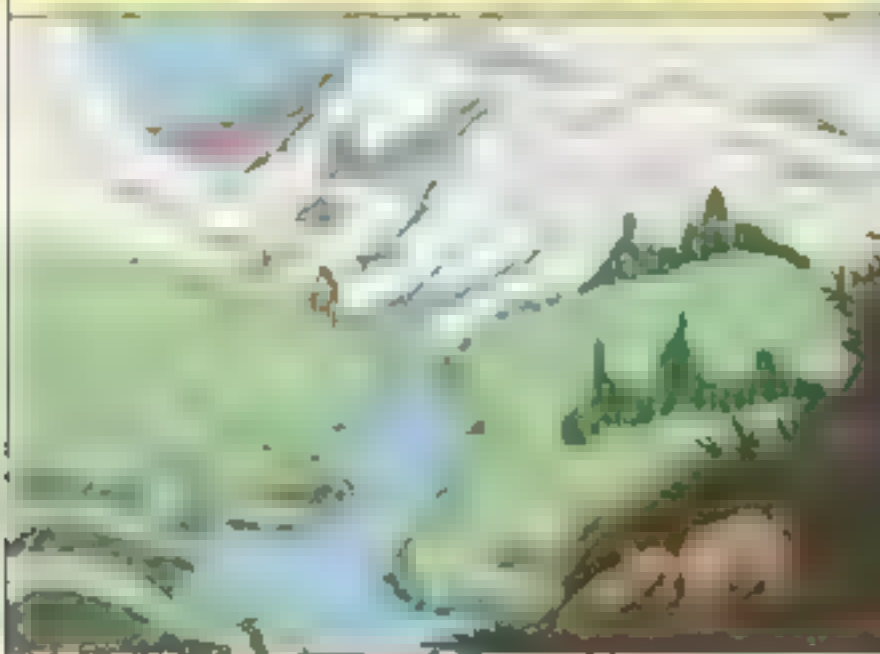
O MASTER, WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU?



I'LL FOLLOW THE MASTER AND CATCH UP WITH HIM. HE COULDN'T HAVE GONE FAR.



SATYATIRTHA RAN BLINDLY AT LAST —



THERE HE IS!



MAJHVACHARYA MOVED FROM ROCK TO ROCK WITH EASE AND GRACE.



SATYATIRTHA FOLLOWED HIM WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY. TOWARDS EVENING, HE WAS EXHAUSTED.

NO, I CAN'T GO A STEP FARTHER, NOR CAN I RETURN. I AM LOST.



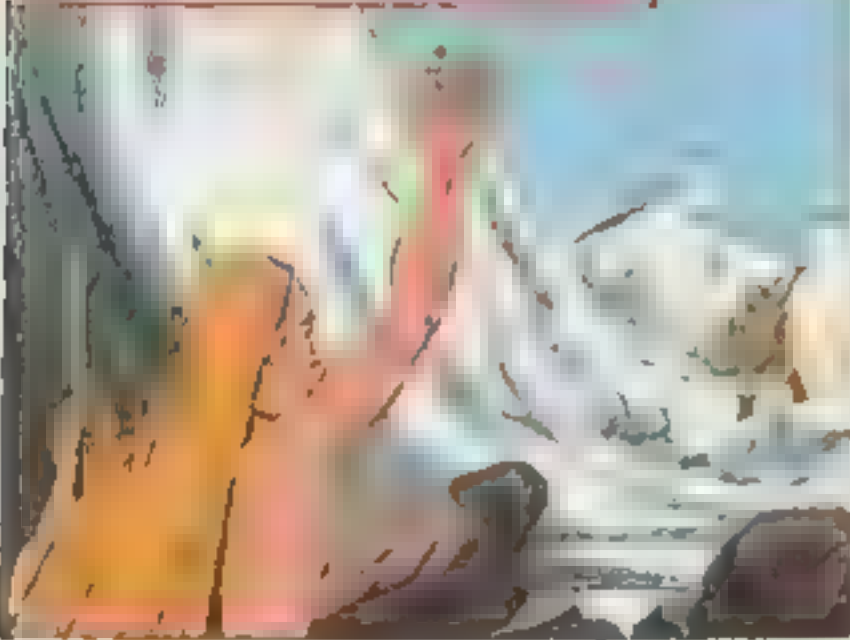
AT THAT MOMENT, THE ACHARYA HAPPENED TO LOOK BACK. HE SAW POOR SATYATIRTHA STRUGGLING FAR AWAY, TO FOLLOW HIM.

ACHARYA...A...



THE ACHARYA WAVED HIS POWERFUL HAND, SENDING SATYATIRTHA TO GO BACK TO THE AGRAHARA.

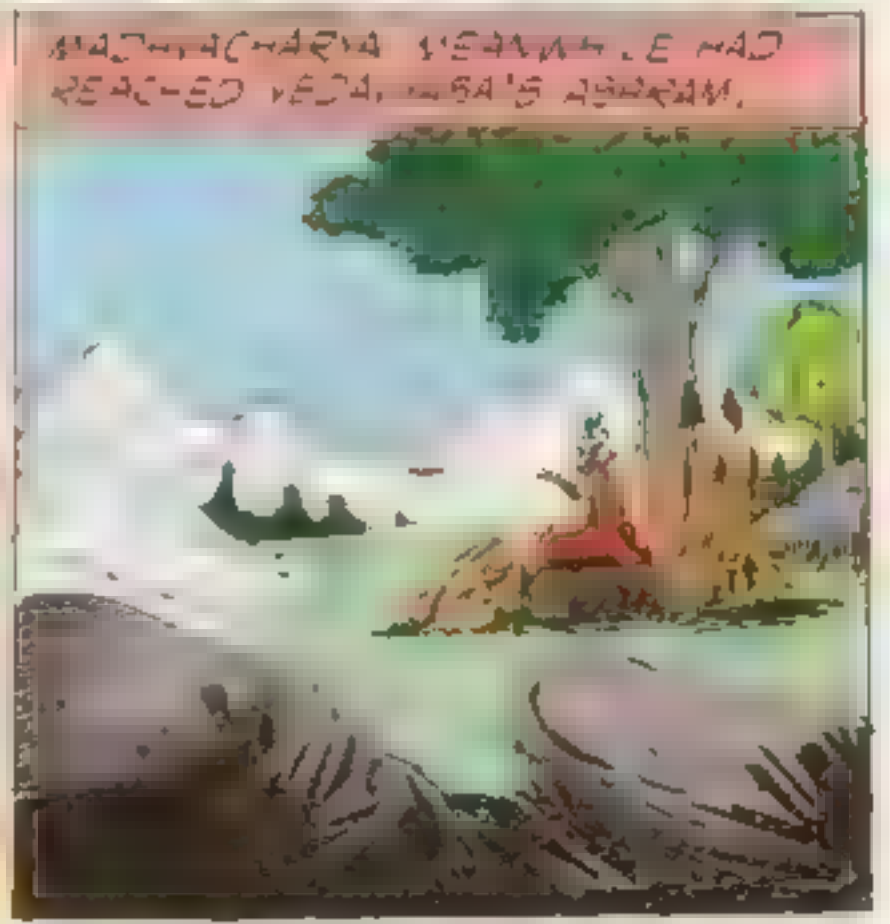
SATYATIRTHA FELT HIMSELF BEING LIFTED BY A POWERFUL GUST OF WIND...



...TO THE AGRAHARA AT LAST.

MADHVACHARYA VEHICULE HAD REACHED VEDA, MATA'S AGRAHARA.

LOOK! IT'S SATYATIRTHA!



MONTHS PASSED. MADHVACHARYA WHO RECEIVED INSTRUCTION FROM VEDAVYASA DID NOT WANT TO GO BACK TO THE WORLD HE HAD LEFT BEHIND. BUT —



YOUR WORK THERE AWAITS YOU—NEEDS YOU. YOU MUST GO BACK.

AS YOU COMMAND, MY LORD.

MADHYA RETURNED TO BADRI AND HIS DISCIPLES ON THE BANK OF THE HOLY ALAKNANDA. THERE HE WROTE HIS COMMENTARY ON THE BRAHMA SUTRAS & OF WHICH SATYARTHA LOVELY MADE COPIES



MADHVACHARYA THEN SET OUT ON HIS RETURN JOURNEY TO UDLPI. ON THE WAY HE HELD PHILOSOPHICAL DEBATES WITH LEARNED SCHOLARS. AT PURI —



THE WORLD IS NOT REAL. IT IS ILLUSORY.

IT IS NOT ILLUSORY, SWAMI SHASTRI. GOD BEING REAL, HIS CREATION MUST NECESSARILY BE REAL.

AFTER A PROLONGED DEBATE, MADHYA WON OVER SHASTRI AS HIS DISCIPLE AND GAVE HIM A NEW NAME—NARAHARI TIRTHA.

AT PRATISHTHANA, HE MET SHOBAVA BHAT, A RENOWNED SCHOLAR.

TO ACHIEVE SALVATION,
ONE MUST RENOUNCE ACTION.
IT IS ACTION THAT BRINGS
ABOUT THE CYCLE OF
BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

NO. WHAT IS TO BE
GIVEN UP IS THE DESIRE
FOR THE FRUITS OF
ACTION, NOT ACTION
ITSELF.

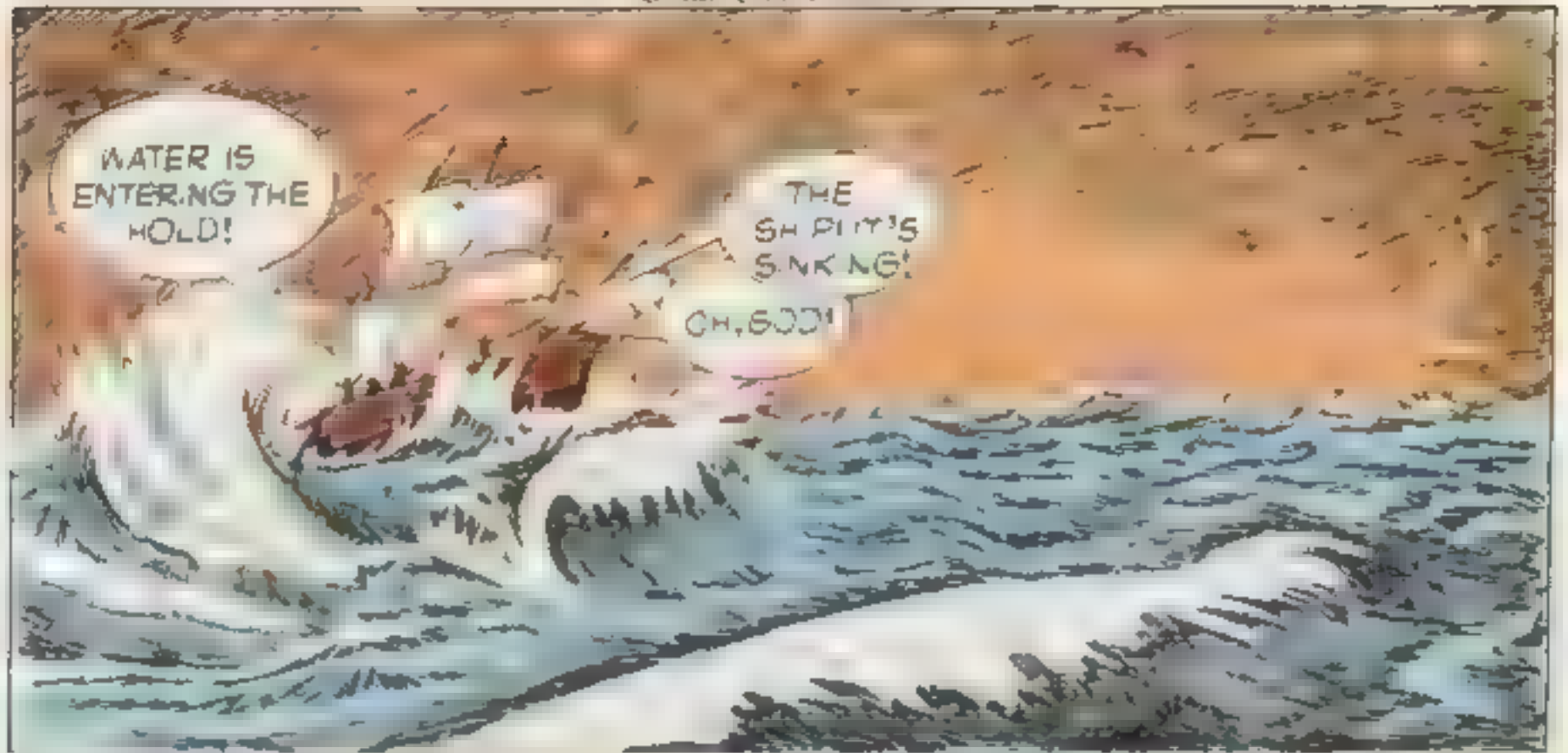
THE DEBATE LASTED FOR SEVERAL DAYS, & AT THE END, SHOBAVA
BHAT ACCEPTED MADHYA AS HIS SPIRITUAL GUIDE.

BUT MADHYA'S GREATEST CONCERN WAS HIS OWN FUTURE — ACHARYA PADMA — AT
UDUPI.

MADHYA, AFTER STUDYING
YOUR WORKS AND LISTENING
TO YOU, AM CONVINCED THAT
YOURS IS THE RIGHT
PATH.

AT UDUPI, MADHYA USED TO GO TO THE SEA
SHORE EVERY MORNING, TO MEDITATE. ONE
DAY A CARGO BOAT FROM CHANAKA WAS BEING
MERCILESSLY TOSSED ABOUT ON THE TURBULENT
SEA.

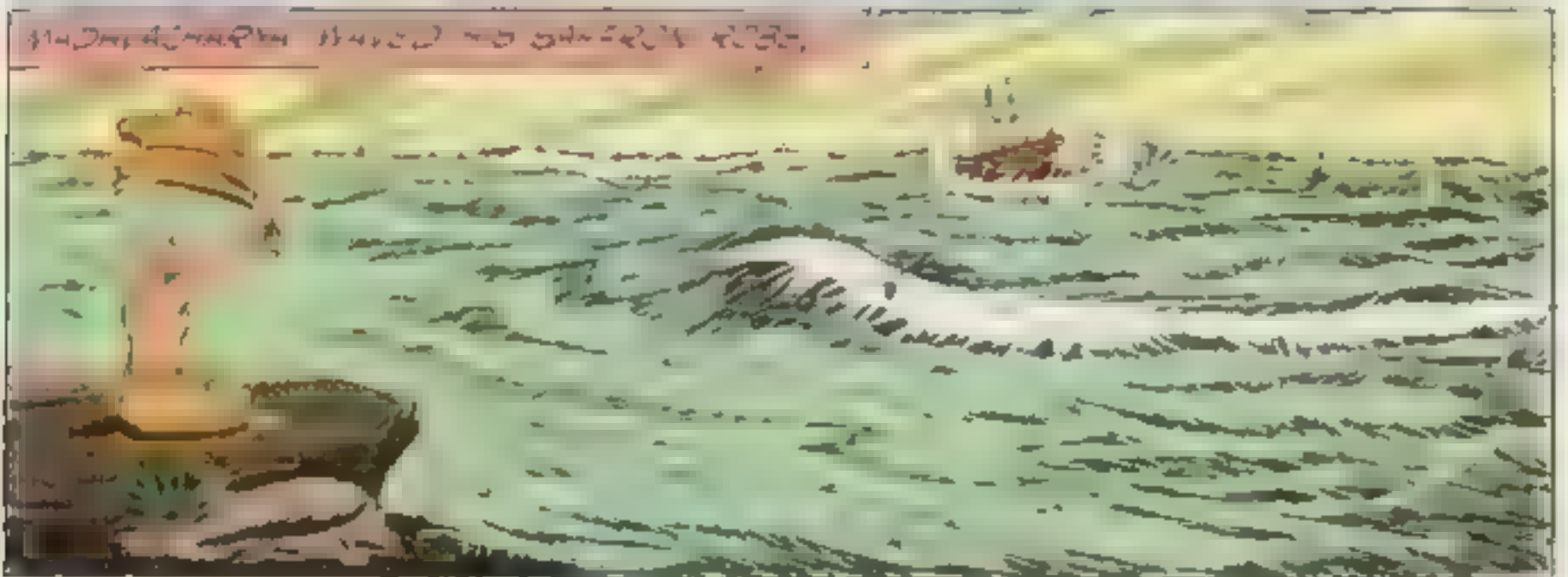
THE SHIP SEEMS
TO BE IN TROUBLE!



WATER IS
ENTERING THE
HOLD!

THE
SHIP IS
SINKING!

OH, GOD!



THE SHIP WAS DRAWN TO SHORE BY THE TIDE.

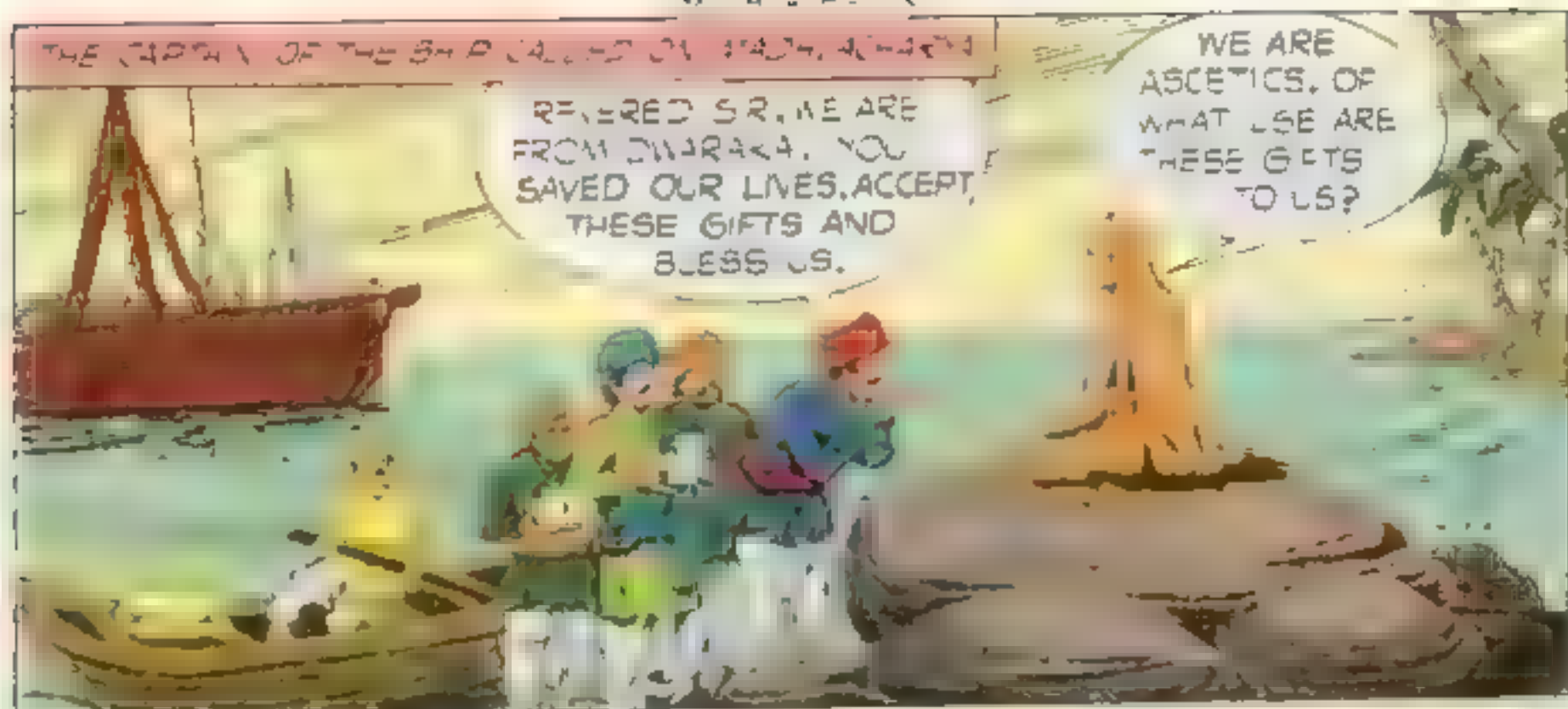


AND LO! THE SINKING SHIP WAS DRAWN ASHORE.

IT'S
UNBELIEVABLE!

LOOK!
THERE'S A
SANT ON
SHORE!

IT'S HE
WHO HAS
SAVED US!



THE CAPTAIN OF THE SHIP CALLED ON RADHA, KUNDA

REFUSED SR, WE ARE FROM DWARAKA. YOU SAVED OUR LIVES. ACCEPT THESE GIFTS AND BLESS US.

WE ARE ASCETICS. OF WHAT USE ARE THESE GIFTS TO US?



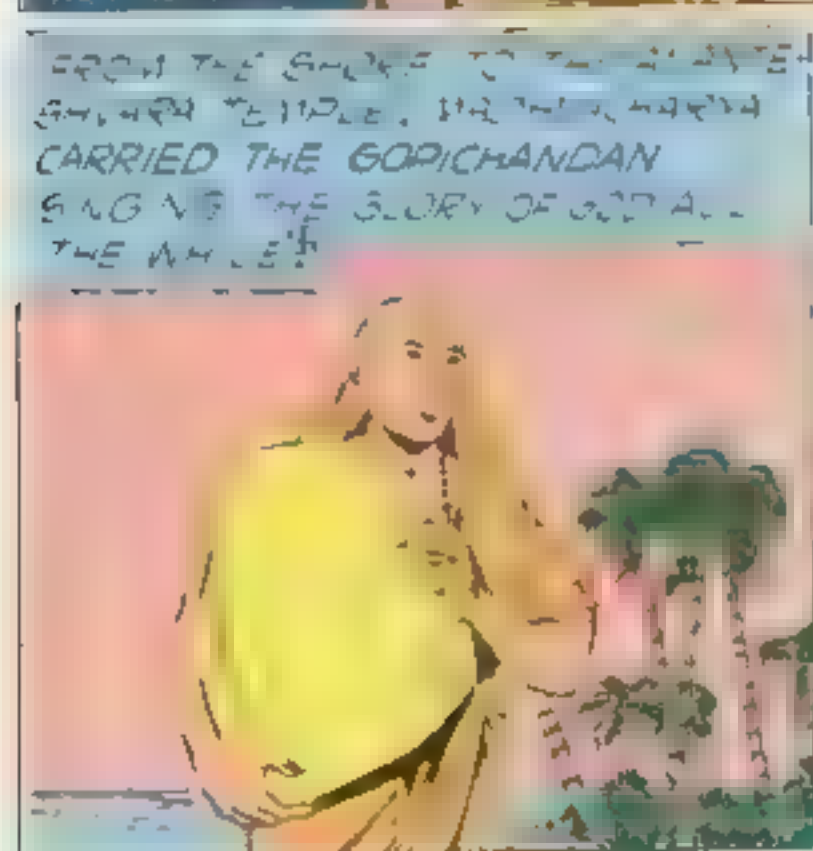
YOU MUST ACCEPT SOMETHING. PLEASE DON'T REFUSE.

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU MUST. I WILL ACCEPT SOME GORICHANDAN * WHICH IS DEAR TO OUR LORD.



THE CAPTAIN HEART AND BROUGHT A HUGE BLOCK OF GORICHANDAN, WHICH HAD BEEN LOADED IN THE VESSEL AS BALLAST.

YOU MAY PROCEED WITH YOUR JOURNEY, GOD BE WITH YOU



FROM THE SHORE TO THE DIVINE SHARADA TEMPLE. HE THEN CAREFULLY CARRIED THE GORICHANDAN SINGING THE GLORY OF GOD ALL THE WHILE.



HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE TEMPLE TANK...

...AND IMMERSED THE GORICHANDAN IN IT.

* CLOD OF EARTH, YELLOW SH & COLOUR. FROM DWARAKA IN DIADASHA STOTRA

THE NEXT MOMENT, A BEAUTIFUL DOL OF KRISHNA ROSE TO THE SURFACE.



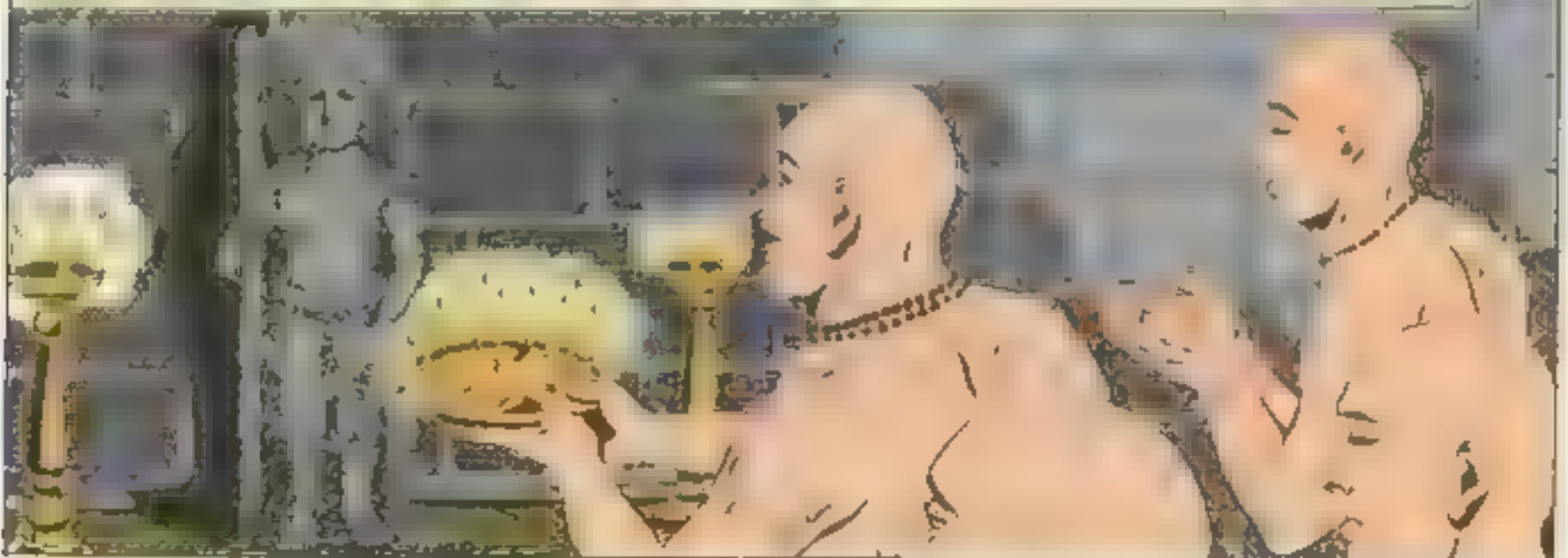
MADHVACHARYA LETTED THE DOL...



...AND LOVINGLY CARRIED IT INTO HIS MUTT.

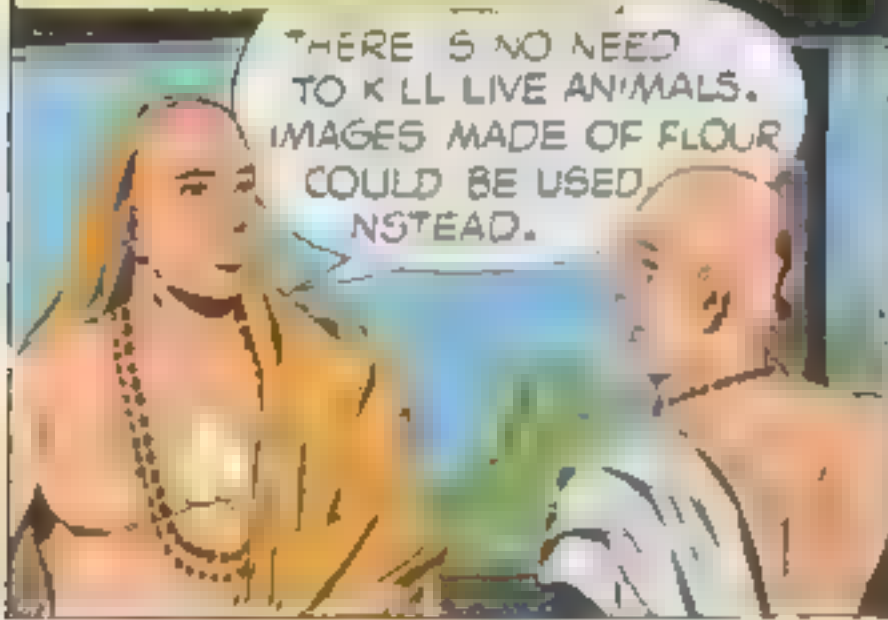


LATER, MADHVACHARYA HAD A SHRINE BUILT FOR THE LORD IN A PORTION OF HIS MUTT WHERE THE DOL WAS CONSECRATED WITH DOL CEREMONY.



MADHVACHARYA, WHO DID NOT UPHOLD VIOLENCE, WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT THE PRACTICE OF KILLING ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF RITUAL SACRIFICES.

THERE IS NO NEED TO KILL LIVE ANIMALS. IMAGES MADE OF FLOUR COULD BE USED INSTEAD.



LATER, HIS BROTHER REPORTED TO MADHVACHARYA.

NO ONE IS PREPARED TO USE IMAGES. THEY CONTINUE TO KILL ANIMALS.

SOME ONE SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD. WHY DON'T YOU?

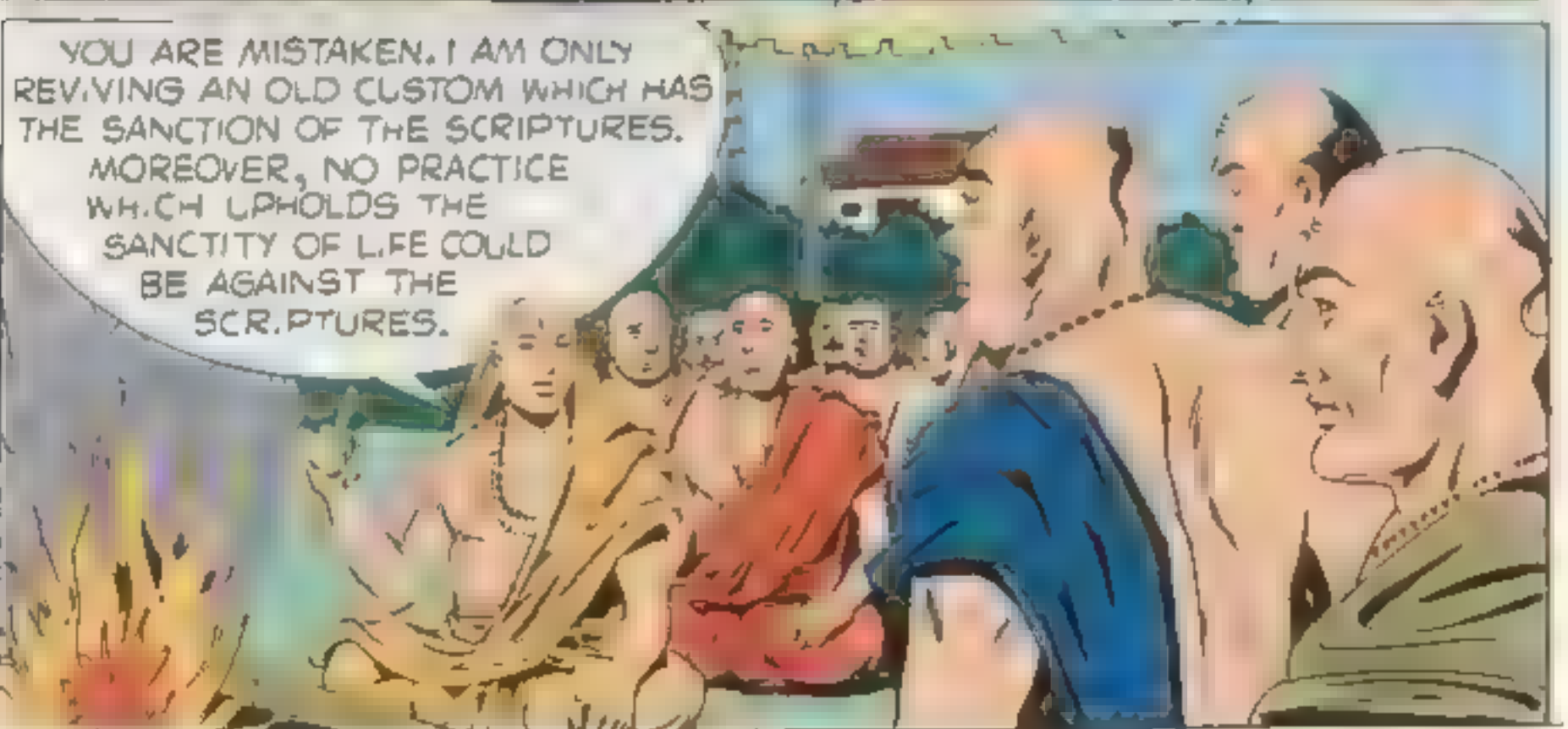


AFTER MADHVACHARYA'S BROTHER DISSEMINATED BRAHMINES VIOLATED THE SACRIFICIAL SITE.

STOP IT AT ONCE! THIS PRACTICE IS AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.



YOU ARE MISTAKEN. I AM ONLY REVIVING AN OLD CUSTOM WHICH HAS THE SANCTION OF THE SCRIPTURES. MOREOVER, NO PRACTICE WHICH UPHOLDS THE SANCTITY OF LIFE COULD BE AGAINST THE SCRIPTURES.





PROCEED
WITH THE
SACRIFICE.

HE IS
RIGHT!

THE ORTHODOX BRAHMINS HED TO A TROOP. LATER, MORE AND MORE BRAHMINS FOLLOWED THE EXAMPLE SET BY MADHACHARYA'S BROTHER.

THOUGH KNOWN MAINLY FOR HIS POWERFUL MIND, THE ACHARYA WAS ALSO FAMOUS FOR HIS UNUSUAL PHYSICAL STRENGTH. ONCE, TWO WRESTLERS CAME TO HIM.

WE COME
TO CHAL-
LENGE YOU
TO MEET
US IN A
WRESTLING
MATCH.

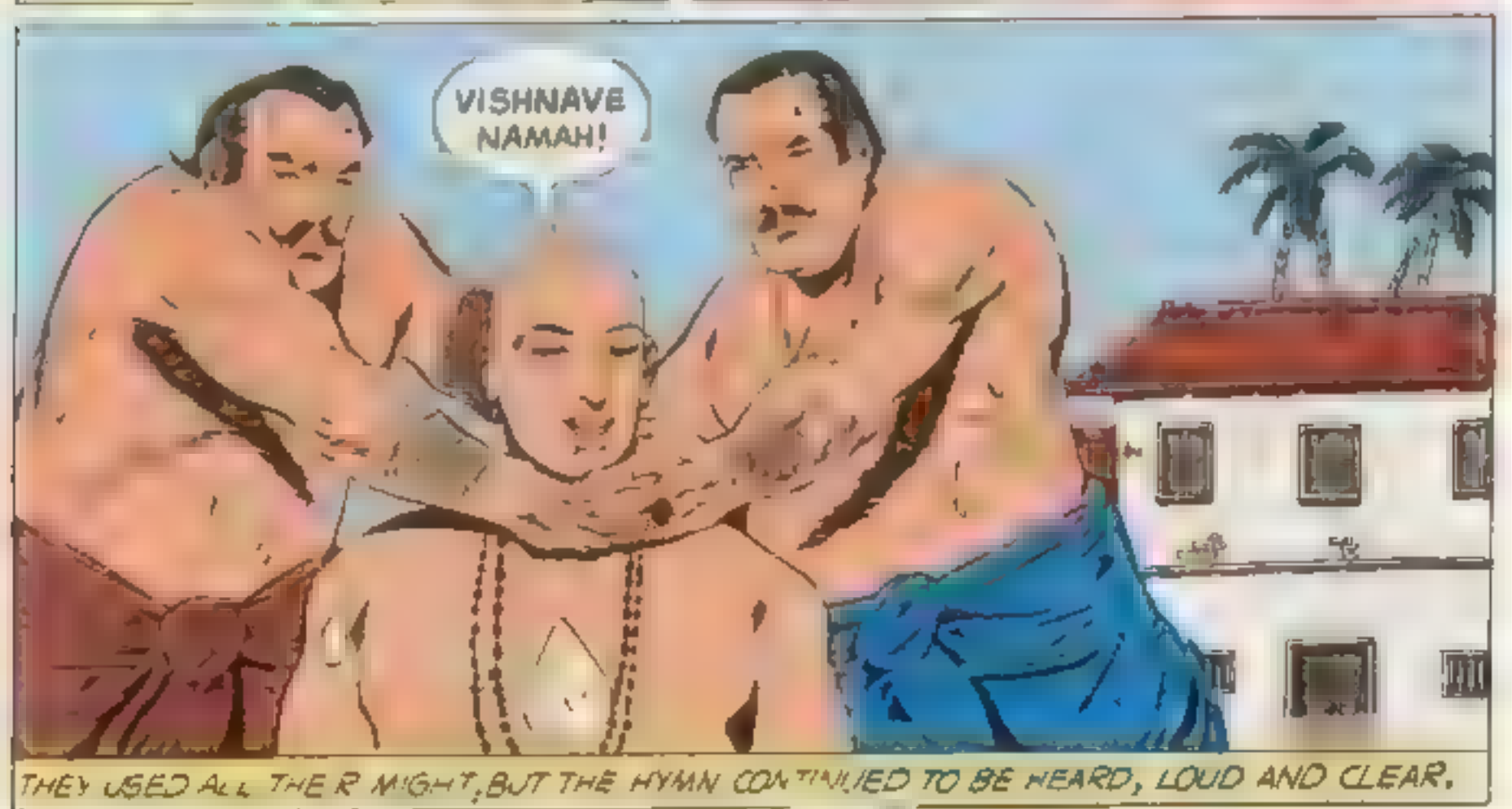
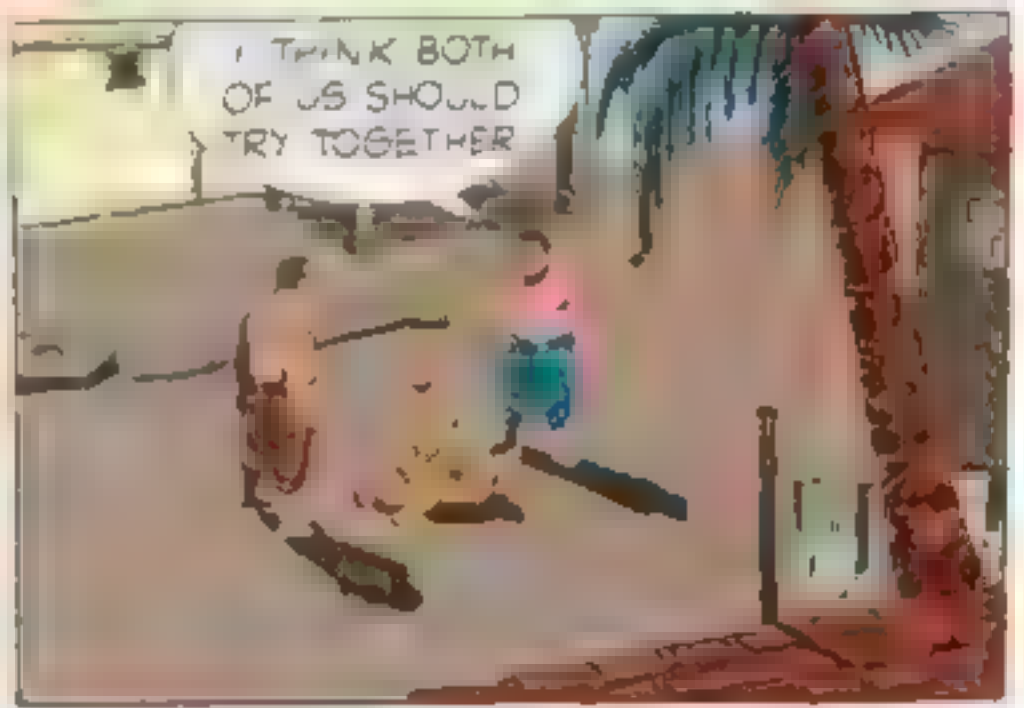
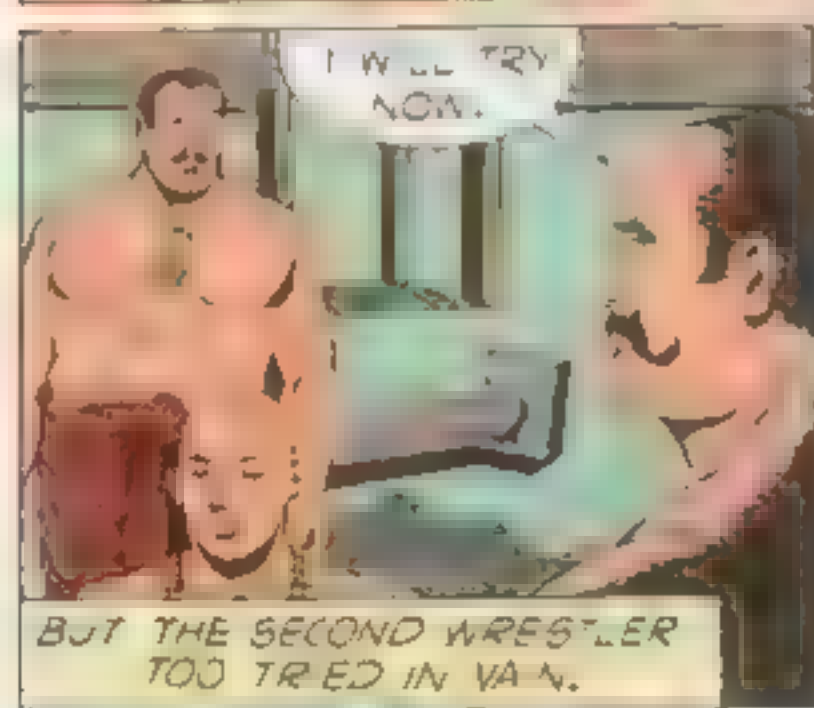
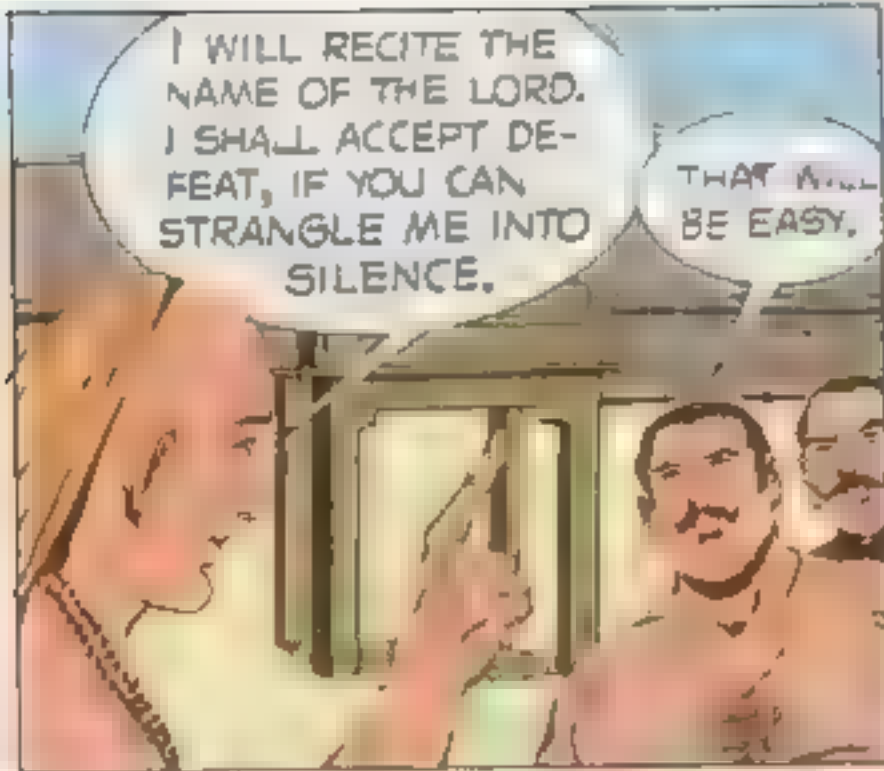
I AM WILLING
TO TAKE UP THE
CHALLENGE, BUT
I MUST FIRST SEE
IF YOU ARE
STRONG ENOUGH
FOR IT.

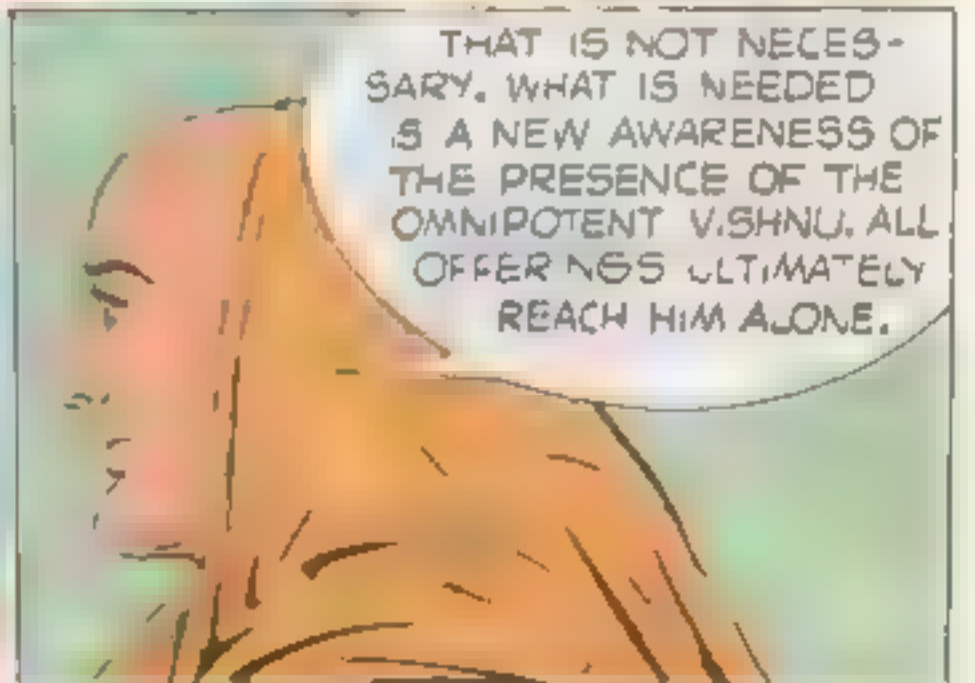
WHAT FURTHER
PROOF DO
YOU NEED?

YOU MAY
HAVE STRENGTH
TO LIFT A LIFE-
LESS PILLAR.
BUT THE TEST
PROPOSED IS
OF A DIFFERENT
NATURE.

NO
ONE HAS
DOUBTED
OUR
STRENGTH
BEFORE.
LOOK, WE
LIFT THAT
PILLAR.







TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE OF SELFLESS ACTION AND JOY AS DEVOTION TO GOD, MADHYA UNDERTOOK A TOUR OF NORTH INDIA AGAIN. ON THE WAY —



MADHVACHARYA ROLLED UP ONE OF HIS ROBES ...

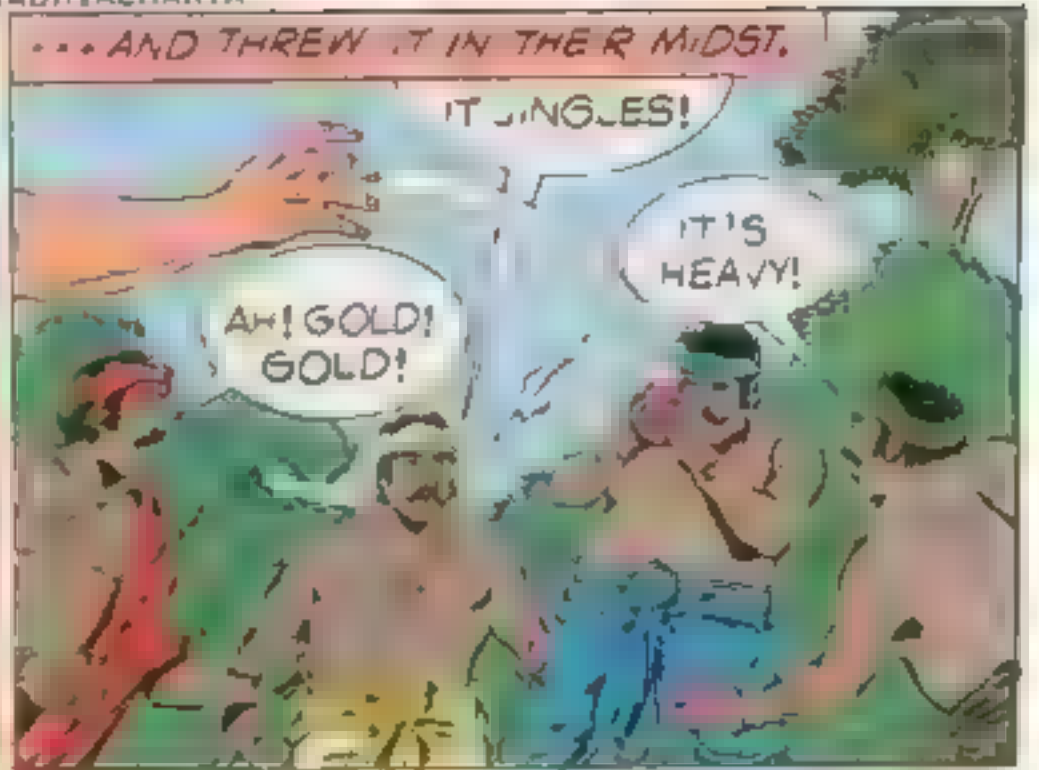


... AND THREW IT IN THE R MIDST.

IT JINGLES!

IT'S HEAVY!

AH! GOLD! GOLD!



IN A MINUTE THERE WAS A SCRAMBLE FOR THE BUNDLE.

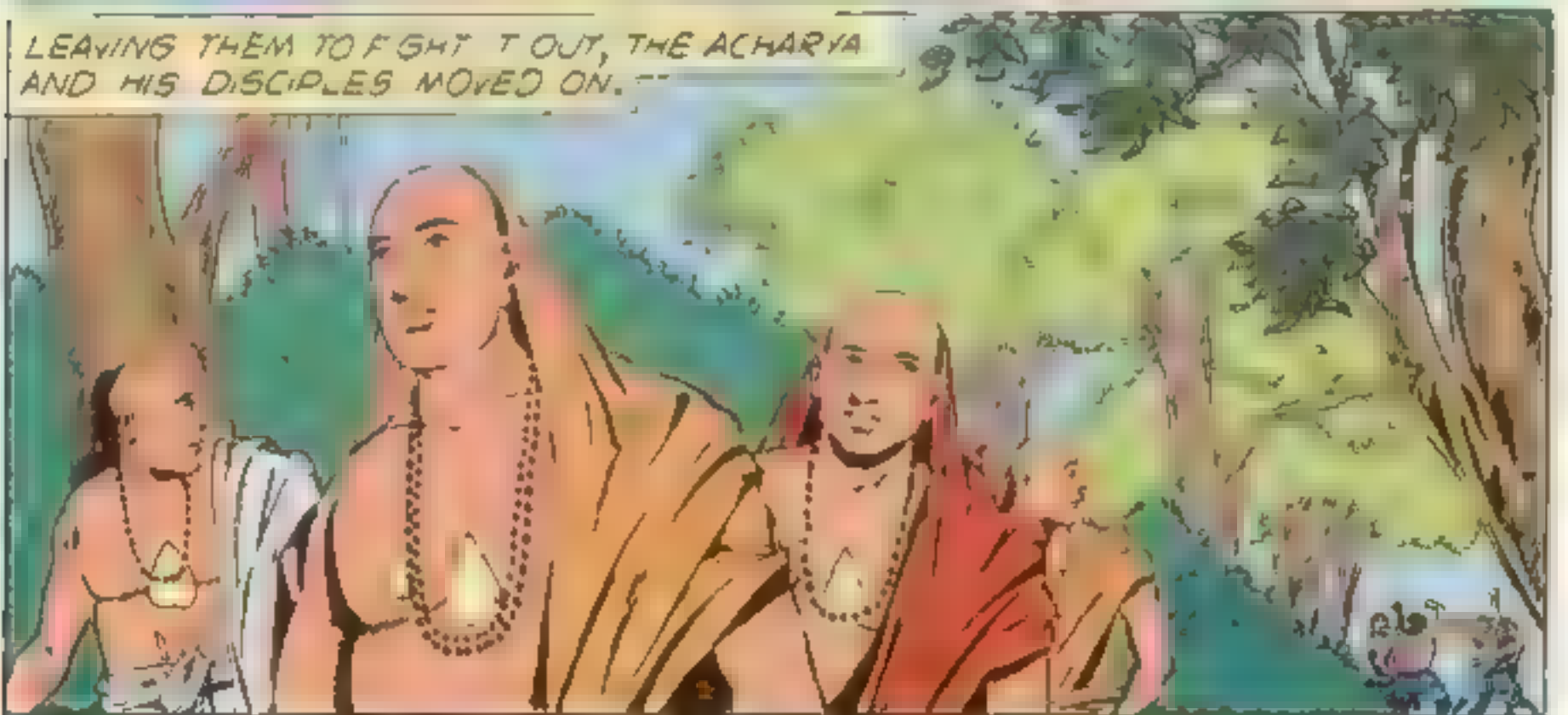
GREEDY, AREN'T YOU?

GIVE IT HERE!

NO, YOU DON'T!



LEAVING THEM TO FIGHT T OUT, THE ACHARYA AND HIS DISCIPLES MOVED ON.



DAYS LATER, WHEN THEY REACHED THE SOUTHERN BANK OF THE GANGA —

MASTER, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE WRONG HERE. WHY IS THE PLACE DESERTED? WHY ARE THE BOATS IDLE?

LET'S QUESTION THE BOATMAN.

THEY WALKED —

YOU'D BETTER GO BACK, SIR. WE DARE NOT TAKE ANYONE ACROSS! THE SULTAN'S ORDERS! HE'S CAMPING ON THE OTHER SIDE WITH HIS ARMY.

THE DISCIPLES WERE SORELY DISAPPOINTED. MAJHVACHARYA READ THEIR THOUGHTS.

WHAT! HAVE WE COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING?

THIS MEANS WE WILL HAVE TO GO BACK WITHOUT FULFILLING OUR MISSION.

I WILL TAKE YOU ACROSS
THE RIVER. FORM
A SINGLE FILE AND
HOLD ON TO THE WAIST
CLOTH OF THE ONE
IN FRONT OF YOU.

THE DISCIPLES DID AS THEY WERE TOLD.



THE NEXT MOMENT, THE SULTAN'S MEN ON THE OTHER BANK WERE SHOCKED
TO SEE A ROW OF HINDU MONKS.

HEY! LOOK!
HINDUS!



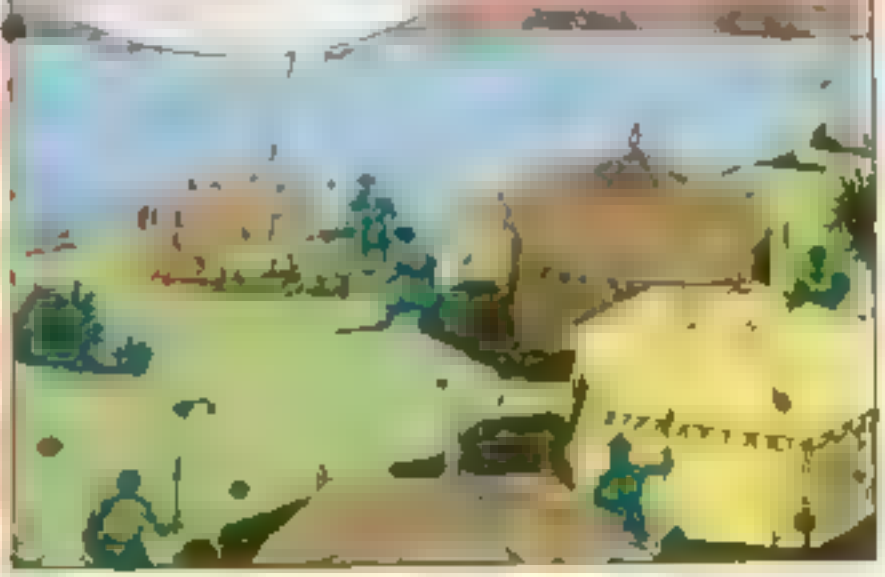
THEY RUSHED FORWARD.

GO BACK, BEFORE
WE MAKE MINCE-
MEAT OF YOU.



THE ACHARYA STOOD CALM, SERENE
AND UNPERTURBED.

WE HAVE COME TO
SEE YOUR RULER.
BE QUIET, BEHAVE
YOURSELVES AND
TAKE US TO HIM.



HEARING THE NOISE OUTSIDE, THE SULTAN HIMSELF CAME OUT.

WHAT DIGNITY! HE GLOWS WITH SPIRITUAL INSIGHT. WHAT COULD HE WANT HERE?

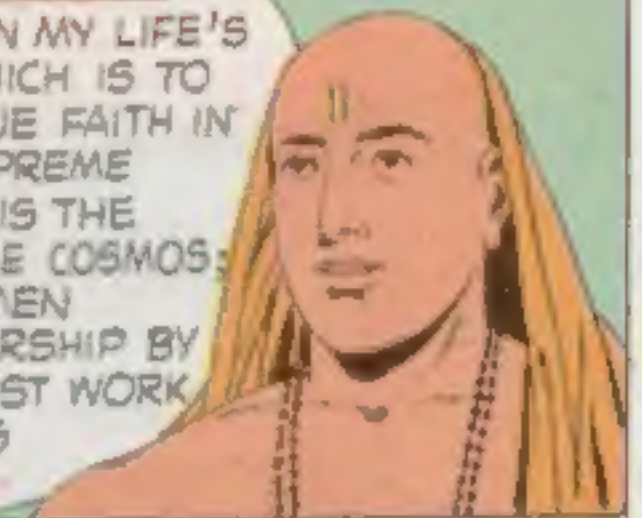


WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS IT THAT EMBOLDENS YOU TO CROSS THE RIVER WHEN HOSTILITIES ARE ON?



TO THE AMAZEEMENT AND DELIGHT OF THE SULTAN, THE ACHARYA REPLIED IN CHASTE TURKISH.

I AM HERE ON MY LIFE'S MISSION WHICH IS TO SPREAD TRUE FAITH IN THE ONE SUPREME BEING WHO IS THE RULER OF THE COSMOS; WHOM ALL MEN SHOULD WORSHIP BY THEIR HONEST WORK AND LOVING DEVOTION.

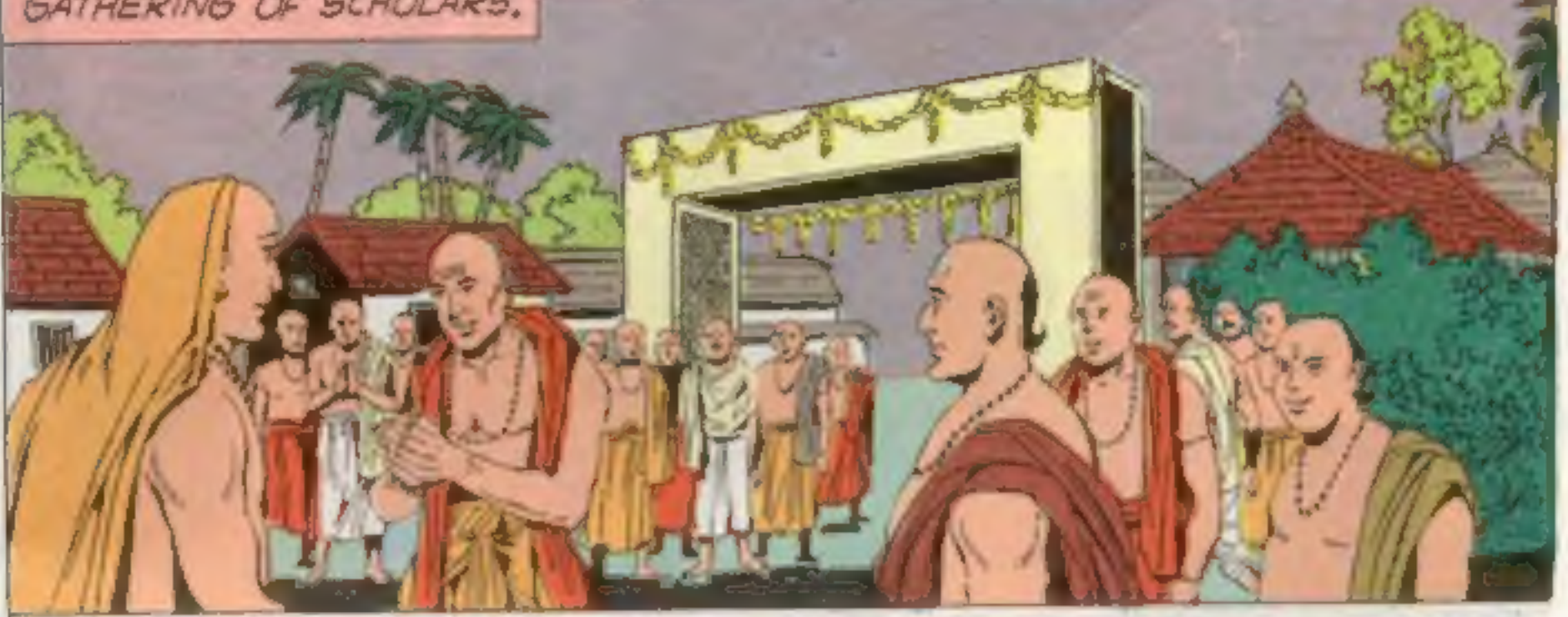


THE SULTAN WAS IMPRESSED.

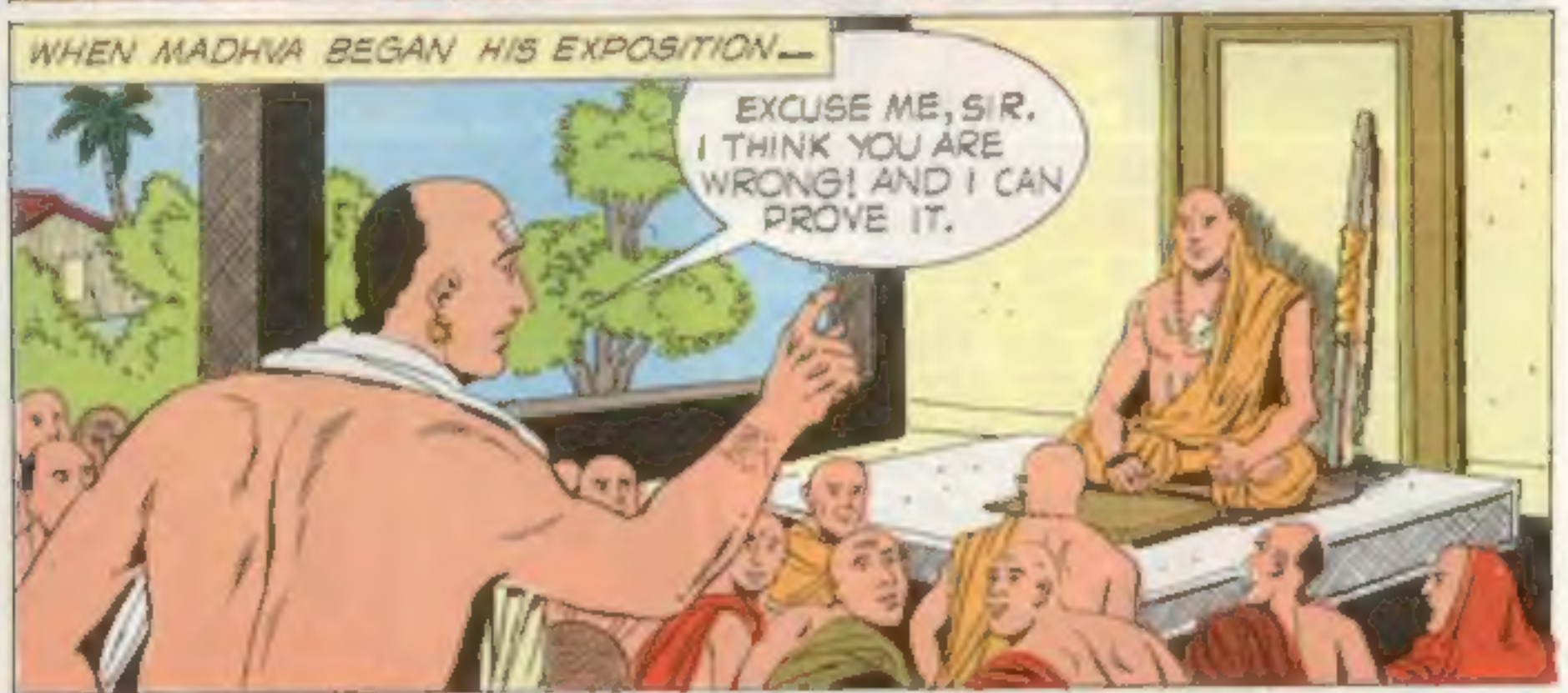
I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED TO YOU. YOU MAY PROCEED WITH YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH MY TERRITORY. NO ONE WILL HARM YOU.



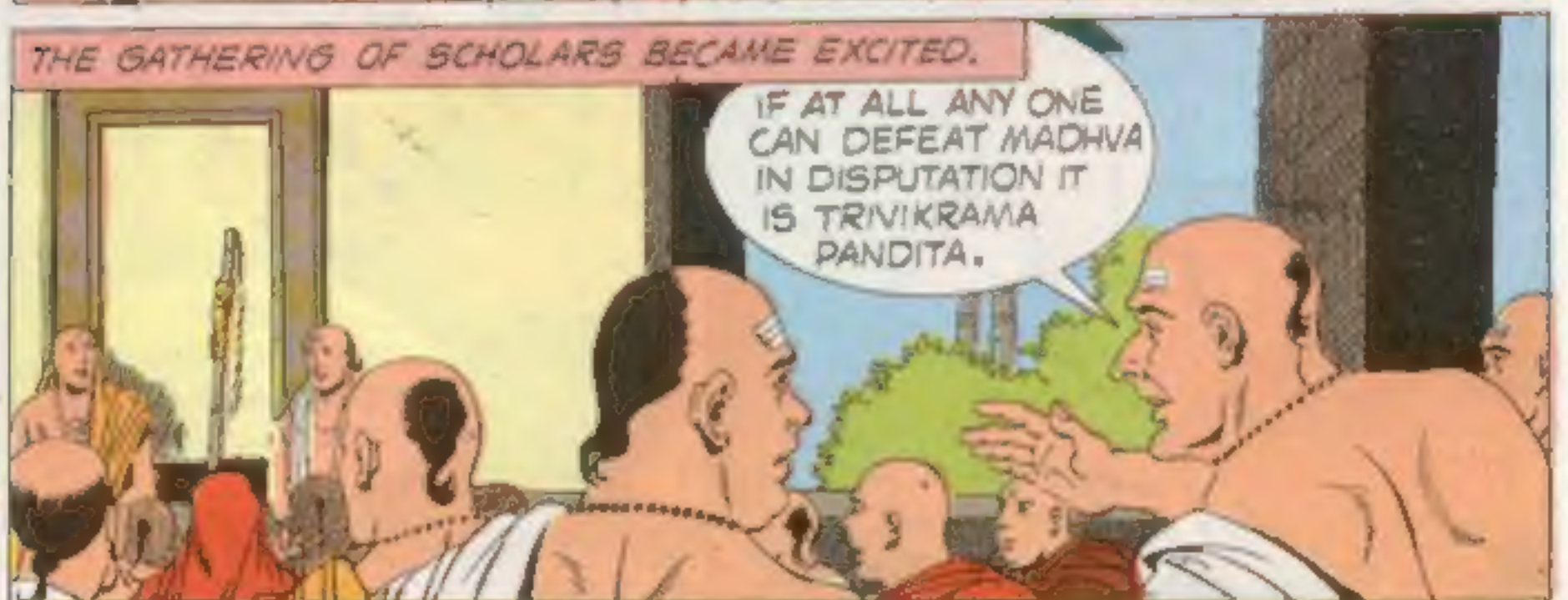
AFTER WINNING MANY FOLLOWERS IN PLACES LIKE KASHI, GAYA AND PURI, MADHVA RETURNED TO THE SOUTH. AT KUDIL* HE WAS RECEIVED BY A LARGE GATHERING OF SCHOLARS.



WHEN MADHVA BEGAN HIS EXPOSITION—



THE GATHERING OF SCHOLARS BECAME EXCITED.



TRIVIKRAMA PANDITA WAS A DOYEN AMONG THE PHILOSOPHERS OF THE TIME.

THE SCHOLARS HEARD THE DISPUTATION WITH RAPT ATTENTION.

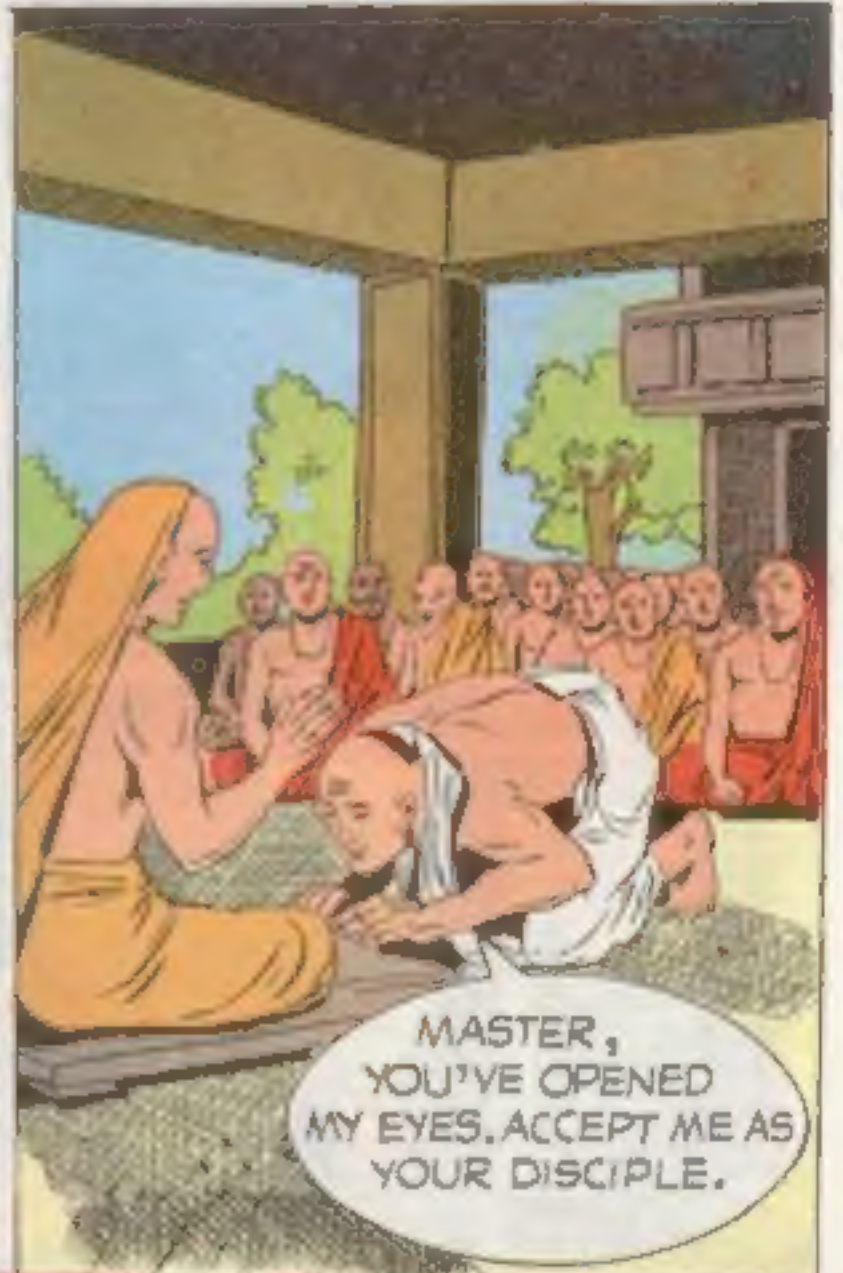
NEITHER ACTION NOR DEVOTION IS THE PATHWAY TO SALVATION. WHEN ONE REALISES THAT THE INDIVIDUAL SELF AND THE SUPREME SELF ARE ONE AND THE SAME, THAT VERY MOMENT SALVATION IS ACHIEVED.

HOW COULD THE ALL POWERFUL, ALL KNOWING, BLISSFUL, SUPREME SELF BE THE SAME AS INDIVIDUAL SELVES WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO IGNORANCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES?



THE GREATEST DEBATE OF THE TIME CONTINUED FOR FIFTEEN DAYS.

GOD IS THE INDEPENDENT REALITY. INDIVIDUALS ARE REAL TOO BUT ARE DEPENDENT ON GOD. INDIVIDUALS CAN ATTAIN SALVATION ONLY THROUGH LOVING DEVOTION TO GOD AND BY HIS GRACE.



MASTER, YOU'VE OPENED MY EYES. ACCEPT ME AS YOUR DISCIPLE.

EVEN TO THIS DAY THERE ARE MILLIONS OF FOLLOWERS OF MADHYA ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.



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Madhvacharya taught men to look upon the world of matter and souls as real instead of as illusory and unreal in a philosophical sense. He therefore put forward a fresh ontological classification of reality into two orders, Svatantra and Paratantra – independent and dependent. God alone is the one independent reality. Hence the name Dvaita (dualism) given to his system.

Madhva freed the concept of Bhakti from the clutches of blind faith and placed it in its right perspective as informed faith in, and love of God, both based on a right understanding of his glory. He also rescued it from the pitfalls of sentimentalism, eroticism and other maladies.

Madhva lived a robust life of 79 years. He was a prolific writer in Sanskrit prose and verse. He wrote thirty-nine works which are collectively known as Sarvamula. These include commentaries on Rig Veda, Upanishads, Gita, Brahmasutras, Mahabharata, Bhagawat and critical works on logic and metaphysics, rituals and *sadachara* (right conduct). He also wrote a number of devotional hymns.

The Chaitanya Sampradaya of Bengal is deeply indebted to Madhva's philosophy in many respects. It includes in its *guruparampara* Madhva and his successors, Jayatirtha and Vyasatirtha. The followers of Madhva are found in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Goa and Uttar Pradesh.

Madhva's system has made a massive contribution to Indian Philosophy through the writings of great commentators such as Jayatirtha, Vyasatirtha, Raghuthama, Vadiraja and Raghavendra, to mention only a few. The Haridasas of Karnataka, owing allegiance to Madhva philosophy, such as Purandara Dasa, Kanaka Dasa and Jagannatha Dasa have made equally significant contributions to Kannada religious literature.

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